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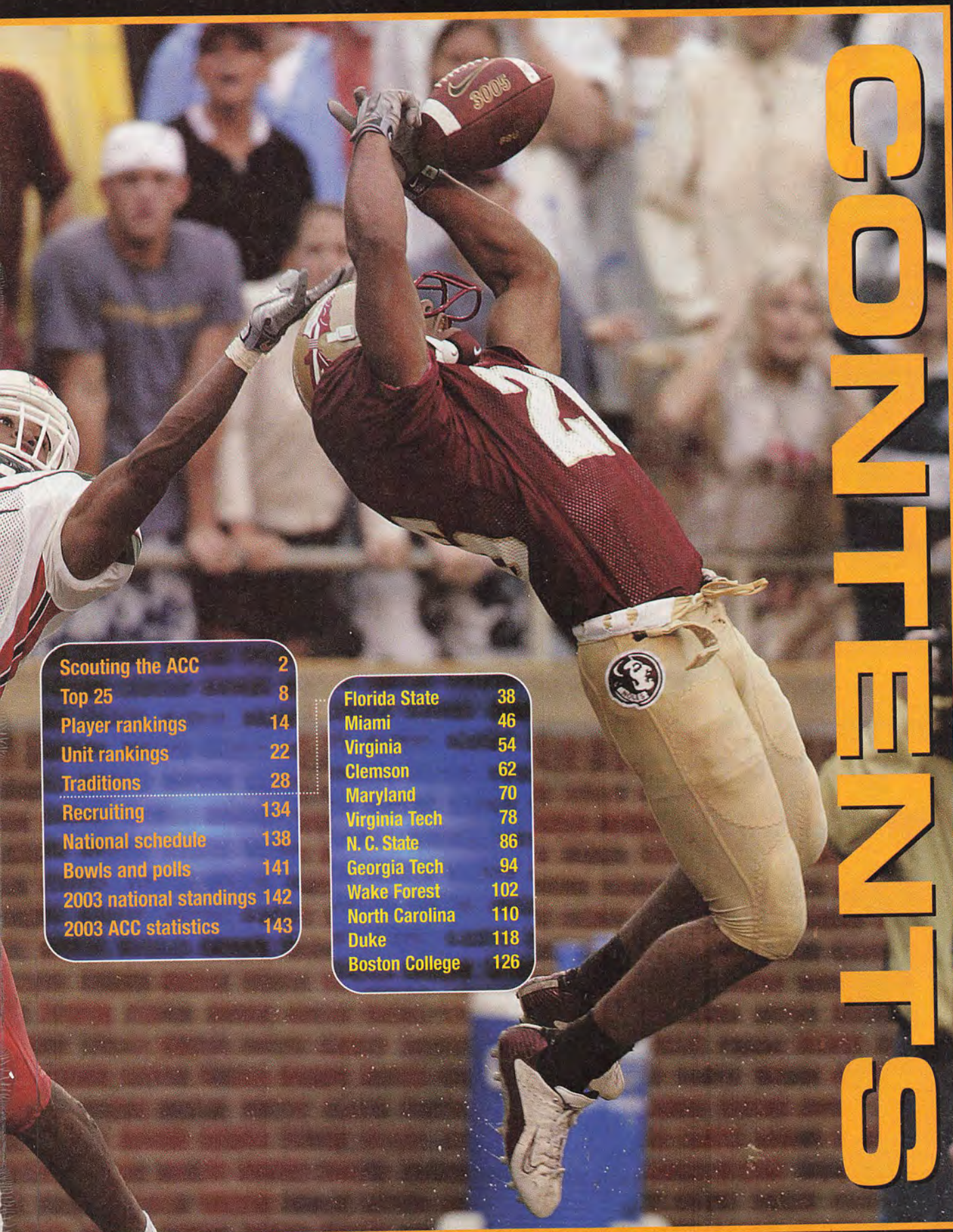

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CONTENTS: BOB LEVERONE / TSN. COVER PHOTOS: DAVID DUROCHIK FOR TSN: CHRIS RIX. BOB LEVERONE / TSN: STEVE SUTER.

Scouti

Drop that basketball. The ACC is now a football conference because of a series of astute coaching hires and the arrival of Big East heavies Miami and Virginia Tech.

By Mike Huguenin

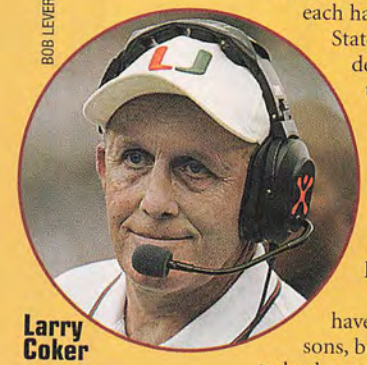
The ACC long has been considered the best basketball league. Now, it can make a strong case that it's the strongest football league, too.

This season, a great argument can be made that the ACC is No. 1. Six of the 11 members have a legitimate shot at the league title, and each of those also harbors hopes of finishing in the top 15 or so.

Recent savvy coaching hires—Al Groh at Virginia, Chuck Amato at N.C. State, Ralph Friedgen at Maryland and Jim Grobe at Wake Forest—meant the league was getting better. This year's addition of Big East—and national—powers Miami and Virginia Tech strengthens the conference's depth. The newcomers also up the ante when it comes to overall athleticism.

The league race should be exciting. For the most part, the teams are evenly matched. Florida State and Miami have the most talent, but each has questions. Florida State must overhaul its defensive front seven, and the secondary isn't as good as an FSU secondary should be. Miami has concerns at tailback, linebacker and in the secondary. And although each has a senior quarterback (Chris Rix at FSU, Brock Berlin at Miami), those guys haven't exactly lighted it up.

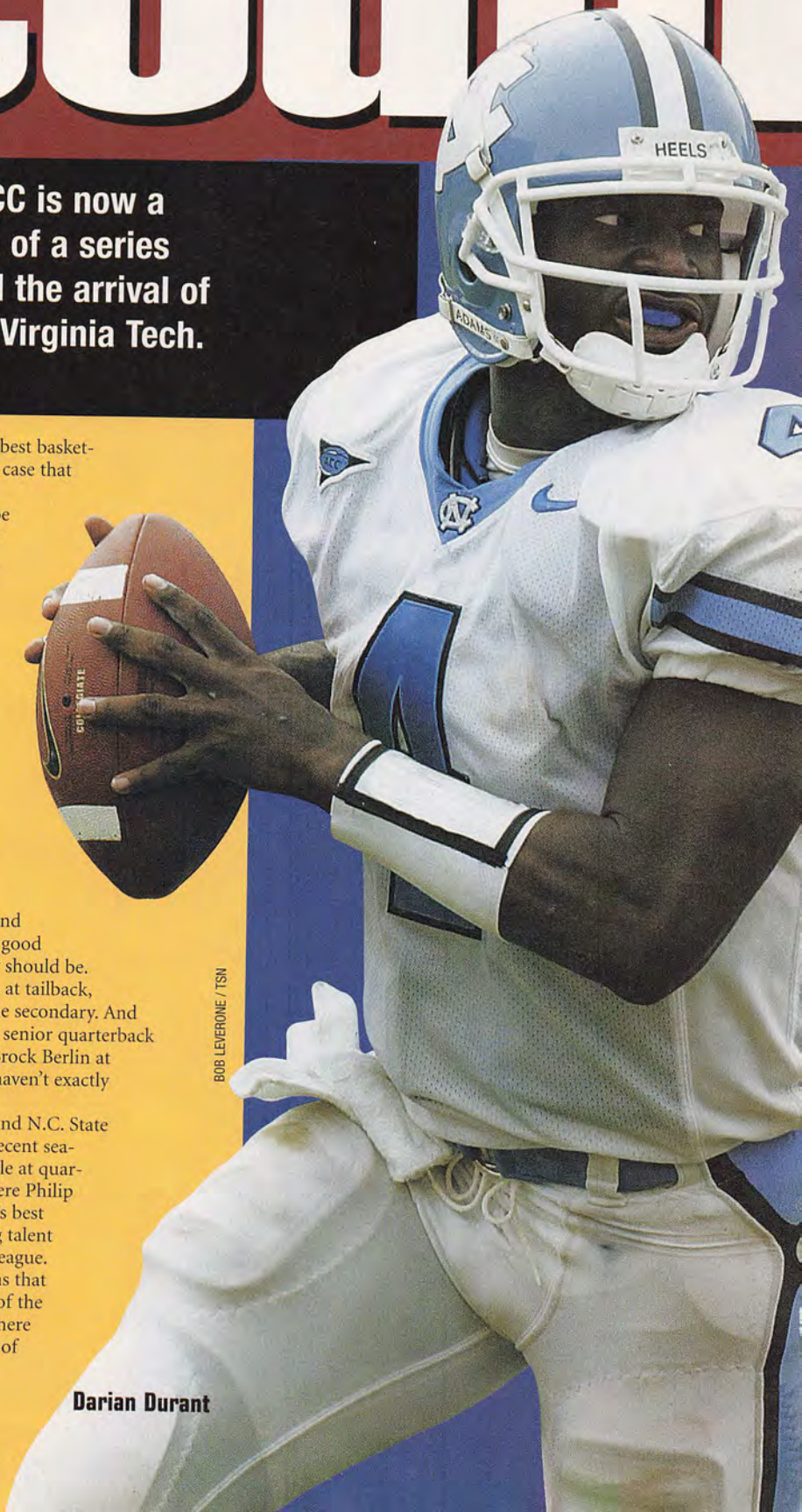
BOB LEVERONE / TSN



Larry Coker

Virginia, Maryland and N.C. State have come on strong in recent seasons, but each has a huge hole at quarterback, especially N.C. State, where Philip Rivers starred for four seasons. Clemson has the league's best quarterback in Charlie Whitehurst, but his surrounding talent isn't as good as it needs to be for the Tigers to win the league.

Duke and North Carolina appear to be the only teams that don't have legitimate hopes of finishing in the top half of the conference. But, hey, there's always basketball season, where those two will be a big reason the ACC will rank as one of the nation's top basketball leagues this winter.



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Darian Durant

ng the ACC

PLAYERS WHO CAN CHANGE GAME PLANS

DARIAN DURANT, QB, NORTH CAROLINA. This guy isn't your typical dropback passer. Nor is he your typical "athletic" quarterback. Instead, he's a hybrid of sorts: a guy who can run and who also happens to be a fine passer. Durant has struggled at times, but there are two big reasons for that. For a while, North Carolina lacked a running game, so Durant was asked to do too much. The other is that UNC's defense has been putrid, meaning Durant and the offense had to put up big numbers if the Heels were to have a chance. He threw for 2,551 yards and 18 touchdowns last season and ran for another 396 yards and six scores. The Heels' running game improved over the course of last season, meaning Durant should be more dangerous this time around.

ERIC HENDERSON, DE, GEORGIA TECH. Henderson is the best pass rusher in the ACC, and, as such, offensive lines need to be worried about him on every passing down. He had 11 sacks and 24 tackles for loss last season as a sophomore. He doesn't have prototypical size (6-3, 265), but he has quickness off the edge and works hard to get to the quarterback.

HEATH MILLER, TE, VIRGINIA. No, he's not a speed merchant. And, no, he doesn't scare you because he can get deep. Instead, he's worrisome because he's so productive. Virginia doesn't have a deep group of receivers, and Miller has become the de facto go-to guy; he had 70 catches and six touchdowns last season. Miller has good hands, is physical and has OK quickness. Generally, college teams don't have to worry about opposing tight ends; they might catch two or three balls, including one for a key first down. But for the most part, they're a defensive afterthought. Not with Miller and Virginia. You need to make sure your linebackers and safeties know where this guy is on pass plays. If you don't, he'll burn you.

HEISMAN TROPHY CANDIDATES

TSN ARCHIVES

1. CHARLIE WHITEHURST, QB, CLEMSON. Whitehurst really came on in the second half of last season. He has size and a ton of physical skills. Clemson lost some strong receivers, but Whitehurst is good enough to overcome that. He has offensive-minded coaches and should put up big numbers, but the Tigers' win total likely will keep him from being a legitimate Heisman contender. Going into the season, he unquestionably is the ACC's best quarterback.

2. CHRIS RIX, QB, FLORIDA STATE. You'll read criticism of Rix soon enough, but he is the first four-year starter at quarterback during the Bobby Bowden regime. Rix has put up solid numbers in his three seasons, and with nine starters back on offense, he is poised for his best season yet. Plus, he's on a team that gets a lot of coverage and should be in the top 10 throughout the season. Still, you get the nagging feeling that for all his tools—and for all the talent around him—he'll come up short at least once or twice.

3. P.J. DANIELS, TB, GEORGIA TECH. To be frank, the ACC doesn't have a deep list of preseason Heisman contenders. But Daniels led the league in rushing last season (1,447 yards) and should get a lot of carries again. And as we all know, big stats can make you a Heisman candidate. But you also have to be on a team that wins, and that might be where Daniels falls short. Still, he also is a nice story because he started his career as a walk-on. And it doesn't hurt that his real first name is Prince; his full name is Prince Ahadzie Daniels Jr.

PROGRAM ON THE RISE

VIRGINIA

Al Groh is almost finished restocking the cupboard after it was left bare following the George Welsh era. The defense looks championship-ready, but work must be done at quarterback and receiver. Still, anchored by a strong line, the offense has enough firepower to get the job done.

PROGRAM ON THE DECLINE

N.C. STATE

Think of this season as a hiccup, as the Wolfpack gets used to life without quarterback Philip Rivers. Until then, N.C. State will lean on a talented defense to carry the torch while the offense develops.

PLAYERS WHO MUST STEP UP

Josh Allen, RB, Maryland. Allen shared time with Bruce Perry last season, but the starting tailback job is all his now. Allen has OK size (5-11, 207) and also a nice combination of strength and speed. In other words, Allen, a junior, can run between the tackles and get around the end. He has scored 16 touchdowns on 246 career carries. It wouldn't be a surprise if Allen got close to 225 carries this season; and we're sure Ralph Friedgen would take a 1,200-yard, 14-TD effort.

Chris Rix, QB, Florida State. Yes, it's true—Rix is both a Heisman candidate and a guy who needs to step up. Rix, a senior, has all the tools but hasn't put it together. Although the Seminoles have nine offensive starters returning, unless Rix takes his play up a notch, the offense won't be as good as it should be.

Leon Williams, LB, Miami. Williams was a monster recruit coming out of high school in Brooklyn, N.Y., but hasn't come close to matching the hype. Then again, playing time has been relatively sparse because of Miami's stud linebackers. This season, Williams is expected to be the playmaker in the middle for the 'Canes. If he fails, the defense will suffer.

PLAYERS MAKING COMEBACKS FROM INJURIES

Jim Davis, DE, Virginia Tech. The Hokies have two vacant starting defensive end spots, and Davis, who missed last season because of a torn pectoral muscle, likely will fill one of them. He has received extensive playing time in his career and is a big-play guy.

Frank Gore, RB, Miami. Sadly for the Hurricanes and their fans, Gore might never be physically able to live up to the hype. He had an exciting blend of power and speed before suffering two severe knee injuries, one that caused him to miss the 2002 season and the other in Game 5 last season that caused him to miss the rest of the year. He was held out of contact drills during spring practice. If he can't go this season, Miami's tailback situation becomes precarious.

Sterling Hicks, WR, N.C. State. Hicks missed last season because of a severe knee injury. Hicks has size (6-2, 181) and speed, and a return to form would give the Wolfpack three legitimate game-breakers on the outside (along with Tramain Hall and Richard Washington). N.C. State lost leading receiver Jerricho Cotchery, but if Hicks is back to 100 percent, the Wolfpack could have the best receivers in the league.

RANKING THE COACHES

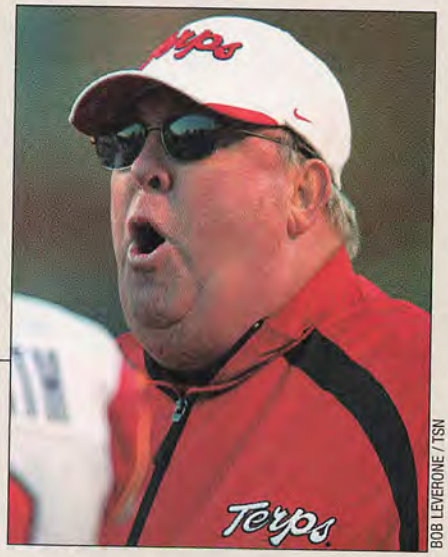
1. Ralph Friedgen, Maryland. He waited a long time for his first head coaching job, and he has made the wait pay off. He took over a program that had more talent than most people thought; at the same time, it was a program in which the players and fans expected to lose. Friedgen has changed that. He has one of the best staffs in the country, and those guys have recruited and X'd and O'd quite well the past three seasons. Friedgen was known as an offense-minded guy when he took the job, and he has proved his acumen on the sideline.

2. Frank Beamer, Virginia Tech. The Hokies have become players on the national scene, so what more do you need to say about Beamer and the job he has done? We'll say a little more anyway. His teams are fundamentally sound, if a bit conservative on offense, and they always play tough defense. Oh, and the special teams are pretty good, too.

3. Jim Grobe, Wake Forest. Grobe has made Wake a legitimate program in the ACC, and that's remarkable. The Demon Deacons' offense gives opponents fits even though Wake's talent level isn't on par with other schools' in the league. Grobe seems to like where he is, but this guy should be on most short lists when a coaching job comes open.

4. Bobby Bowden, Florida State. He's the winningest coach in Division I-A history, but his 'Noles have slipped a bit in recent seasons. The slip has been the most noticeable on offense, which is stunning considering how much of an innovator Bowden used to be.

5. Larry Coker, Miami. Coker won a national title in his first season, then lost in the title game in his second. From that kind of start, there's nowhere to go but down. There was an offseason shakeup of the offensive coaching staff, and maybe that's a good thing. Defensively, Miami still is magnificent. Offensively is where the 'Canes need to make major improvement.



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6. Chuck Amato, N.C. State. He has turned around the Wolfpack's fortunes since arriving in Raleigh in time for the 2000 season. Amato was a longtime assistant at Florida State and brought a ton of ideas with him. Just look at the Wolfpack on defense if you want proof. Amato and his staff also have turned to Florida to increase team speed. N.C. State has 29 Floridians on its roster this season, and many of them are from South Florida, Amato's old recruiting territory when he was a Florida State assistant.

7. Al Groh, Virginia. This league has a number of top-level coaches, as evidenced by Groh being way down here. He and his staff have recruited exceptionally well the past few seasons, and it shows, especially on defense. The Cavs have gotten much faster. Groh also can X and O it up on defense. But it's time for Virginia to take the next step.

8. Tommy Bowden, Clemson. It has been an interesting 12 months for Bowden, as he was on the hot seat for most of last season, then was named the league's coach of the year. Like his dad, he likes a high-powered offense. But that offense has sputtered too often under Bowden's watch. Now, though, he has an exceptional quarterback, which puts the onus on the defense to come through.

9. Chan Gailey, Georgia Tech. Gailey is a former longtime NFL assistant who is a good X's and O's guy. He did a fine job with a true freshman quarterback last season, but defense led the way for the Jackets. He and his staff have it tough because they are a clear No. 2 in their own state, which makes it difficult to recruit. Gailey won't be able to truly show how good a coach he is until he starts getting better players.

10. John Bunting, North Carolina. Bunting is squarely on the hot seat this season, replacing Tommy Bowden. The Heels won five games total the past two seasons, mainly because of a porous defense. Ironically, that is supposed to be Bunting's specialty. He and his staff have recruited relatively well the past few seasons. What that means, of course, is that if he is fired, his predecessor should be able to win right away.

11. Ted Roof, Duke. This will be Roof's first full season as coach. He took over for the final five games last season, finishing 2-3. School officials said they like how the Blue Devils played with more fire under Roof, who had been the defensive coordinator. That, of course, begs this question: What was Roof doing the first seven weeks of the season? Roof has a solid resume and is a good motivator. But this is Duke, so Roof needs to add "miracle worker" to that resume.

RANKING THE OFFENSIVE COORDINATORS

CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

1. Mike O'Cain, Clemson. This is O'Cain's first season as the Tigers' coordinator, but he has had a huge hand in the offense as the quarterbacks coach the past three seasons. He replaces Brad Scott, who was demoted to offensive line coach. O'Cain's work with Charlie Whitehurst last season was excellent. Whitehurst is the ACC's best quarterback, and part of the success is O'Cain's. A former Clemson quarterback and head coach at N.C. State, O'Cain wouldn't mind a stronger running game this season.

2. Charlie Taaffe, Maryland. He's the former coach at The Citadel, which ran the wishbone when he was there. Thus, Taaffe and coach Ralph Friedgen, who is known to favor the pass, have concocted quite an offense in their three seasons in College Park. The Terps use the running game as their hammer, and it has worked well. Imagine what Friedgen and Taaffe could do with a legitimate stud at wide receiver.

3. Gary Tranquill, North Carolina. It certainly hasn't been the offense's fault that the Tar Heels have won five games total the past two seasons. Tranquill has done a nice job with quarterback Darian Durant. Detractors say Durant makes too many mistakes, but that comes from a fearless attitude and the knowledge that the offense has to win games. Tranquill wouldn't mind more balance and could get it this season.

4. Noel Mazzone, N.C. State. Mazzone is entering his second season with the Wolfpack. At one point in the late '90s, he seemed to be a head coaching candidate after serving as an assistant at Mississippi and Auburn under Tommy Tuberville. But Mazzone was fired after the 2001 season at Auburn. N.C. State's offense played at a high level last season, but that was with Philip Rivers at the controls. This season will be a better test of Mazzone's mettle. He has one of the league's best group of receivers to work with.

5. Ron Prince, Virginia. Prince is entering his second season as the Cavaliers' coordinator and also serves as the offensive line coach. The Cavs threw the ball effectively last season despite a dearth of receiving talent, making do with short passes to tight end Heath Miller and a lot of dump-offs to the backs. This season, there's a new quarterback and questionable wide receivers, so perhaps more running plays are on the horizon.

6. Steed Lobotzke, Wake Forest. The Demon Deacons' offense is one of the funkiest in the nation. What is it? Well, that's a good question. Given coach Jim Grobe's background, it's no surprise that it has as its base the Air Force wishbone. But there are a ton of formations and myriad variations off those formations. Lobotzke also is the offensive line coach.

7. Marty Galbraith, Duke. This is Galbraith's first season with the Blue Devils, and it will be interesting to see what he does with a depleted unit. He has a nice track record, though, in previous stops at N.C. State and Marshall, among others. But the talent level with Duke isn't the same as in those previous stops.

8. Bryan Stinespring, Virginia Tech. This is Stinespring's third season at the controls, and Tech can be expected to continue to run its run-first offense. The Hokies' passing attack is nothing special, and it might suffer even more this season because of a questionable group of receivers. It will be interesting to see the tweaks Stinespring incorporates this season.

9. Dan Werner, Miami. This is Werner's first season as coordinator; his predecessor, Rob Chudzinski, left to become tight ends coach with the Cleveland Browns. Werner had been the quarterbacks coach before his promotion. He was showered with kudos when Ken Dorsey was the starter. Last year, Werner took some hits when Brock Berlin struggled all season.

10. Jeff Bowden, Florida State. He has the name, but he hasn't showed well. FSU's offense has posted some OK numbers of late, but Bowden isn't the reason. There's a question as to who really runs the offense, Bowden or quarterbacks coach Daryl Dickey. FSU's passing attack doesn't strike fear into foes like it used to. But Bowden's supporters—and he has some—say that's quarterback Chris Rix's fault.

11. Patrick Nix, Georgia Tech. The former Auburn quarterback heads into his first season as the Jackets' coordinator. He takes over an offense that has a strong running game but also a young quarterback. Nix's first order of business is to help sophomore Reggie Ball become a better passer.

ALL-CONFERENCE

FIRST TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Player, school	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Craphonso Thorpe, Florida State	6-2	177	Sr.
WR	Ryan Moore, Miami	6-3	205	So.
TE	Heath Miller, Virginia	6-5	254	Jr.
T	Alex Barron, Florida State	6-6	308	Sr.
T	Eric Winston, Miami	6-7	303	Jr.
G	C.J. Brooks, Maryland	6-6	318	Sr.
G	Elton Brown, Virginia	6-6	333	Sr.
C	David Castillo, Florida State	6-2	304	Jr.
QB	Charlie Whitehurst, Clemson	6-4	220	Jr.
RB	T.A. McLendon, N.C. State	5-11	216	Jr.
RB	P.J. Daniels, Georgia Tech	5-10	200	Jr.

DEFENSE

E	Eric Henderson, Georgia Tech	6-3	265	Jr.
E	Chris Canty, Virginia	6-7	280	Sr.
T	John McCargo, N.C. State	6-2	289	So.
T	Orien Harris, Miami	6-4	299	Jr.
LB	Ahmad Brooks, Virginia	6-4	249	So.
LB	Leroy Hill, Clemson	6-1	220	Sr.
LB	D'Qwell Jackson, Maryland	6-1	224	Jr.
CB	Antrel Rolle, Miami	6-1	200	Sr.
CB	Justin Miller, Clemson	5-11	200	Jr.
S	James Butler, Georgia Tech	6-3	210	Sr.
S	Andre Maddox, N.C. State	6-1	200	Sr.

SPECIALISTS

K	Nick Novak, Maryland	6-0	183	Sr.
P	Ryan Plackemeier, Wake Forest	6-3	230	Jr.
KR	Steve Suter, Maryland	5-10	192	Sr.

SECOND TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Player, school	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Jarwarski Pollock, North Carolina	5-8	170	Sr.
WR	Tramain Hall, N.C. State	5-11	187	Jr.
TE	T.J. Williams, N.C. State	6-4	248	Jr.
T	Jon Dunn, Virginia Tech	6-7	341	Sr.
T	Kyle Wallace, Georgia Tech	6-6	295	Sr.
G	Chris Myers, Miami	6-5	287	Sr.
G	Cedric Johnson, Clemson	6-4	325	Sr.
C	Jed Paulsen, N.C. State	6-2	290	Sr.
QB	Chris Rix, Florida State	6-4	210	Sr.
RB	Wali Lundy, Virginia	6-1	212	Jr.
RB	Josh Allen, Maryland	5-11	207	Jr.

DEFENSE

E	Eric Moore, Florida State	6-4	244	Sr.
E	Phillip Alexander, Duke	6-4	255	Sr.
T	Brodrick Bunkley, Florida State	6-3	291	Jr.
T	Kevin Lewis, Virginia Tech	6-1	288	Sr.
LB	Pat Thomas, N.C. State	6-2	230	Sr.
LB	Darryl Blackstock, Virginia	6-4	230	Jr.
LB	A.J. Nicholson, Florida State	6-2	235	Jr.
CB	Domonique Foxworth, Maryland	5-11	177	Sr.
CB	Eric King, Wake Forest	5-9	185	Sr.
S	Jamaal Fudge, Clemson	5-10	190	Jr.
S	Jerome Carter, Florida State	6-0	219	Sr.

SPECIALISTS

K	Jon Peattie, Miami	6-3	200	So.
P	Adam Podlesh, Maryland	5-11	209	So.
KR	Mike Imoh, Virginia Tech	5-7	196	Jr.

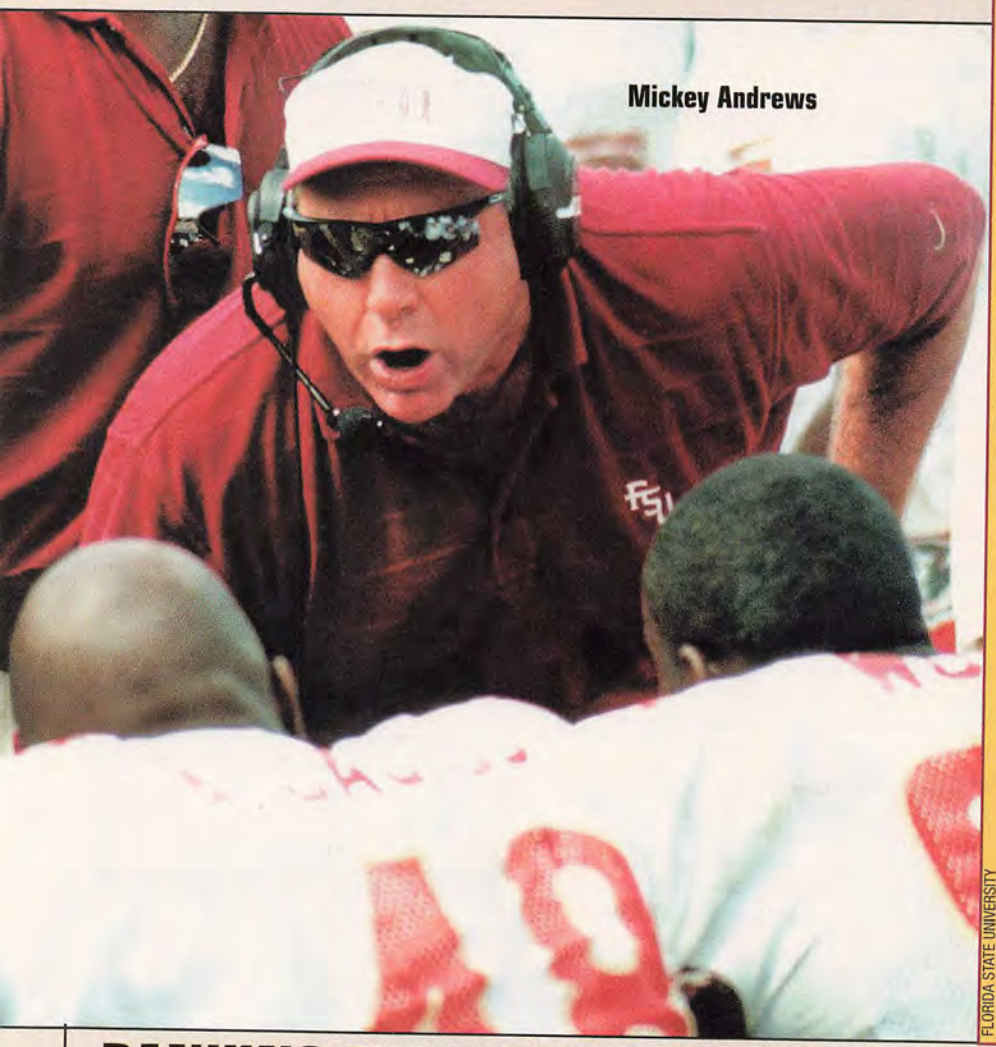
PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

Offense: Charlie Whitehurst, QB, Clemson
Defense: Antrel Rolle, CB, Miami

NEWCOMERS OF THE YEAR

Offense: George Bell, RB, Virginia Tech
Defense: Khalif Mitchell, E, North Carolina

RANKING THE SCHEDULE STRENGTH


Mickey Andrews

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

1. Clemson. There are road games against Florida State, Virginia and Miami (the Tigers are the only ACC team that must play Florida State and Miami on the road). Three of the first five games are on the road. And the Tigers also play the ACC's toughest nonconference schedule, including a trip to Texas A&M.

2. Maryland. On the plus side, the Terps don't play Miami. But on the negative, there's a murderous four-game stretch in late October/early November: at Clemson, vs. FSU, at Virginia and at Virginia Tech. Indeed, except for that game against the Seminoles, the toughest league games are away from home. There's also no game against North Carolina, which means one less chance for an easy ACC win.

3. Wake Forest. The Demon Deacons have to play Florida State and Miami and also must play Clemson, N.C. State and Maryland on the road. At least they don't have to play Virginia. On the plus side, the toughest nonconference game (Boston College) is at home.

4. Florida State. The Seminoles have a monster opener, at Miami on September 6, but the next three games are at home, including a contest against Clemson. Plus, there are games with Duke and North Carolina, both of which should be easy league wins. Another advantage: The toughest games are spread out, with the toughest back-to-back contests not coming until the end of the season. But the 'Noles also have two tough nonconference games: a home game vs. Florida and a game at Syracuse.

5. N.C. State. The Wolfpack gets Miami and Florida State at home. Hey, if you have to play both, it certainly is better to play them at home rather than on the road. The Wolfpack also gets a break in that it doesn't have to play Virginia. There is one tough nonconference game, but three of the first four league games are on the road.

RANKING THE DEFENSIVE COORDINATORS

1. Jon Tenuta, Georgia Tech. He should be a head coach within three years. He worked wonders with a depleted defense last season, no surprise to anyone who has followed his career. He favors an attacking style, which sometimes leads to problems in pass defense. Still, the defense should keep Tech in every game.

2. Gary Blackney, Maryland. He's the former coach at Bowling Green and one of many veterans on Ralph Friedgen's staff. The Terps use a 3-4 set and put their linebackers in position to make plays. For the most part, they do so.

3. Randy Shannon, Miami. Yes, he has had a ton of talent to work with during his tenure. He also has gotten all of that talent to play at an extremely high level.

4. Mickey Andrews, Florida State. Andrews' defenses have slipped a few notches the past few seasons. The Seminoles have lacked a dominant pass rusher, and that, in turn, has put more pressure on the secondary, which hasn't been able to carry the load. Andrews still is a tough son-of-a-gun, though, and a FSU game isn't complete unless you see Andrews on the sideline, jaw jutted and chomping on his gum.

5. Bud Foster, Virginia Tech. Foster and the Hokies employ the wide tackle six scheme, and it was used with great success in the Big East. His scheme is based on fast, aggressive defenders, and Tech usually has those in abundance.

6. Al Golden, Virginia. Golden's defenses haven't been all that good of late, but that's more of a personnel than a scheme problem. He wants his unit to be aggressive, and he has the speed to turn his guys loose this season. The Cavs use a 3-4 set and have the best group of linebackers in the league. Golden also is a solid recruiter.

7. Dean Hood, Wake Forest. The Deacons don't have the depth of talent that most of their ACC brethren enjoy, but Hood has gotten good results nevertheless. Wake was forced to use a hybrid 3-3-5 scheme out of necessity the past few seasons, but expect more of a base 4-3 look this season. Still, expect the Deacons to play the 3-3-5 at least in nickel situations. The look is distinctive enough that it gives Wake an advantage against teams that don't normally see it.

8. John Lovett, Clemson. Lovett, who came from Auburn, is heading into his third season with Clemson. He favors the traditional 4-3, but like most teams, the Tigers slide easily into a 4-2-5 set. He'll be working with the league's best secondary this season.

9. Reggie Herring, N.C. State. He's the first defensive coordinator Chuck Amato has employed, and you can be sure Amato still will have a lot of input. Herring is a former coordinator at TCU and Clemson, and as a Florida State grad, he is well-versed in the Seminoles' style of defense. That's also Amato's background. N.C. State has used the blitz well, and that won't change with Herring in charge.

10. John Gutekunst, North Carolina. Gutekunst, who was the head coach at Minnesota earlier in his career and arrives from South Carolina, will be in his first season with the Tar Heels. His mission: Improve a miserable unit. Good luck.

11. Jerry Azzinaro and Scott Brown, Duke. They will serve as co-coordinators for new coach Ted Roof, himself a former Blue Devils defensive coordinator. Expect Duke to use numerous formations and stunts in an effort to create turnovers.

6. Virginia. The Cavs should open 4-0, with the only road game among the first four a contest against woeful Temple. Four of the first five games are at home, and the Cavs also get Clemson, Maryland and Miami in Charlottesville. But there also are trips to Florida State and a season-ender at Virginia Tech.

7. North Carolina. The Tar Heels don't have to play Clemson or Maryland, and three of the first four games are at home. Two of the first three league games are away, but the next three are in Chapel Hill. And the season-ending road games are against Wake and Duke. There are two relatively tough nonconference games: a visit from Louisville and a trip to Utah.

8. Georgia Tech. The toughest games are spread throughout the schedule, and the Yellow Jackets don't face Florida State. There are two eminently winnable nonconference home games, and for the most part, the toughest league games are in Atlanta (Miami, Virginia Tech, Virginia). But three of the first four league games are on the road.

9. Duke. The Blue Devils miss Miami and North Carolina State and get Maryland, Virginia and Clemson at home. One negative: They open the season with three consecutive road games. Still, there's a possibility of a 3-0 record in nonconference games.

10. Virginia Tech. The Hokies must face Southern California in the opener and also have to travel to Miami to end the year. But they don't have to play Clemson or Florida State, and the bulk of the tough conference games are at home.

11. Miami. Gee, the easiest schedules are for the league newcomers. Hmmm. There's only one truly tough conference road game (Virginia). And three of the Hurricanes' final four league games are at home, making for an easily navigable stretch run. The nonconference schedule features a visit from Louisville.

RANKING THE TOP NONCONFERENCE GAMES

1. FLORIDA AT FLORIDA STATE, NOVEMBER 20. With Miami now in the ACC, this is the best nonconference rivalry in the nation.

2. SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA VS. VIRGINIA TECH AT LANDOVER, MD., AUGUST 28. The Hokies' first game as an ACC member is against the co-defending national champs. Props to Frank Beamer for opening with a tough game.

3. CLEMSON AT TEXAS A&M, SEPTEMBER 18. Tommy Bowden's team won't be playing a vintage Aggies squad, but this still has intersectional intrigue.

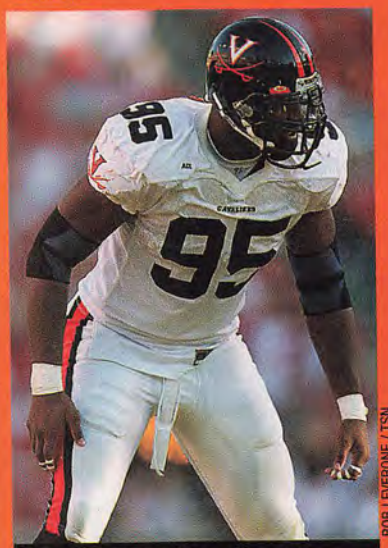
4. OHIO STATE AT N.C. STATE, SEPTEMBER 18. A rematch of one of last season's most entertaining games. One problem for the Wolfpack: Philip Rivers is gone.

5. NORTH CAROLINA AT UTAH, OCTOBER 16. Although this would garner more interest if it were a basketball game, it still deserves notice. The Heels should be commended for playing a tough non BCS-league team on the road. **TSN**

Mike Huguenin is an assistant sports editor for the Orlando Sentinel.

THE HITS LIST

Best pregame atmosphere: Clemson
Best game atmosphere: Virginia Tech
Best mascot: Maryland
Best fans: Virginia Tech
Best home-field advantage: Miami



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Best end vs. the run
Chris Canty, Virginia

Worst home-field advantage: Duke
Fastest running back: Josh Allen, Maryland
Most overrated player: Chris Rix, QB, Florida State
Most underrated player: D'Qwell Jackson, LB, Maryland
Most fearless quarterback: Darian Durant, North Carolina
Most dangerous scrambler: Bryan Randall, Virginia Tech
Shiftiest running back: Leon Washington, Florida State
Best short-yardage runner: Yusef Kelly, Clemson
Best blocking back: Madison Hedgecock, North Carolina
Most physical receiver: Ryan Moore, Miami
Surest hands: Heath Miller, Virginia
Best route runner: Jason Anderson, Wake Forest
Fastest receiver: Airese Currie, Clemson
Quickest offensive lineman: Elton Brown, G, Virginia
Most powerful offensive lineman: Chris Myers, G, Miami
Fastest defensive back: Tye Hill, CB, Clemson
Best blitzer: Pat Thomas, LB, N.C. State
Best run support corner: Jimmy Williams, Virginia Tech
Hardest-hitting safety: Jamaal Fudge, Clemson
Best pass-rush specialist: Shawne Merriman, Maryland
Best run-stuffing tackle: Jonathan Lewis, Virginia Tech
Best cover linebacker: Caron Bracy, Wake Forest
Hardest-hitting linebacker: Leroy Hill, Clemson
Best special teams kamikaze: J.J. Jones, FS, N.C. State

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Find out how your favorite ACC teams stack up with the rest of the nation in Sporting News' *College Football* preview. We take you inside the huddle with our exclusive strength of schedule rankings for all 117 Division I-A programs, unit rankings for every conference, depth charts and schedules for every team, preseason rankings from No. 1 through No. 117, plus our All-American team.

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Look for TSN's *College Football* magazine at newsstands and bookstores June 15. It also will be available at **www.sportingnews.com/books** or by calling 800-825-8508, Dept. TSN.

TSN'S

TOP 25

The new heavyweight

The bigger and better ACC leads all conferences with six teams in the rankings

By Pete Fiutak

The new and improved ACC is the deepest league in the country, with more teams in the Top 25 than any other conference—and more that are within range. But the big boys still will rule.

Since 1992 the scoreboard reads Florida State 11 championships, the rest of the ACC one, but conference newcomer Miami is 5-0 against the Seminoles over the last four years. In other words, the ACC title likely will be decided when the sunshine-superpowers meet in the opener September 6.

Even if history says the race will be over a week into the season, this still is a conference worth watching because nine of the 11 teams—Duke and North Carolina are the exceptions—are talented enough to belong in bowls, and at least five could be in or near the top 10 at some point.

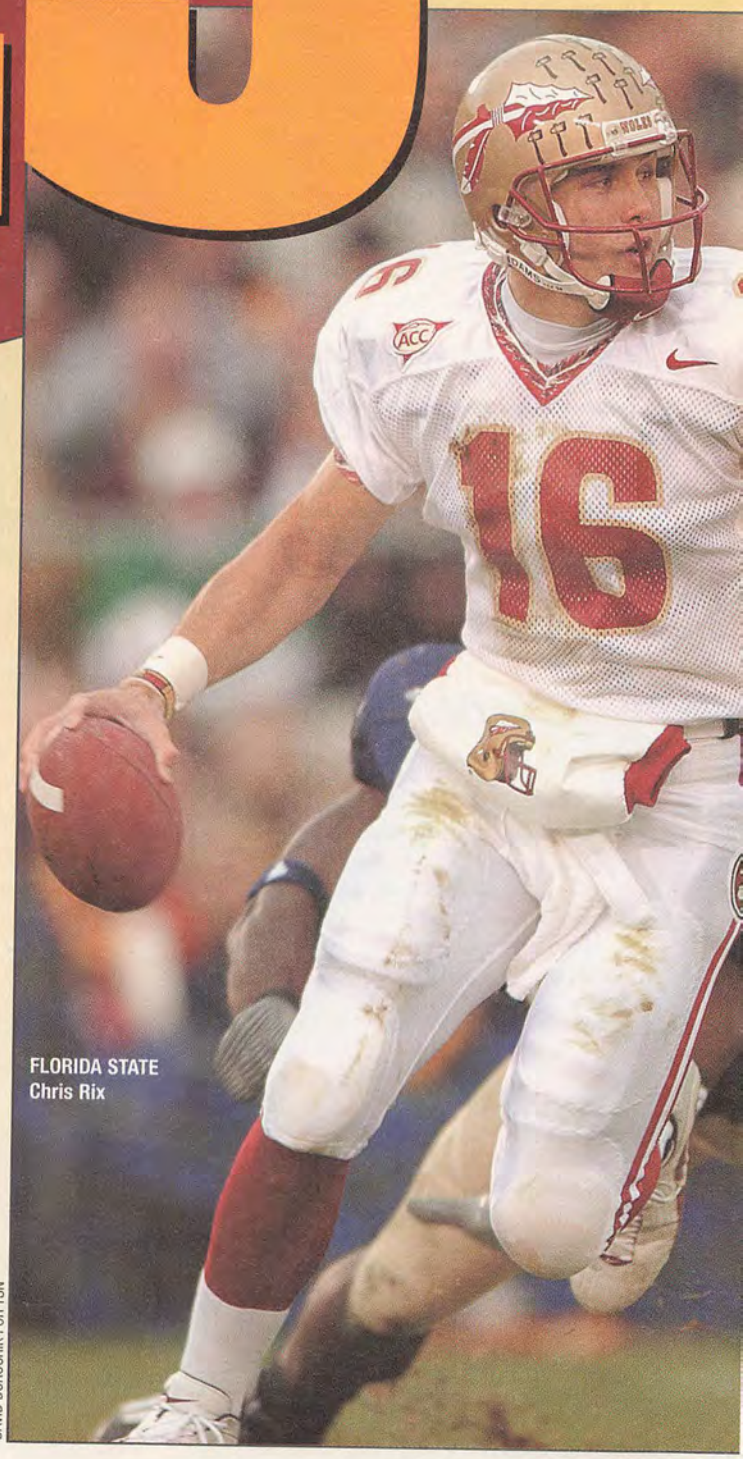
With a stockpile of young talent, Virginia is on the verge of being a perennial star. Clemson has one of the nation's most dangerous offenses, led by future NFL quarterback Charlie Whitehurst. Despite the loss of several key players, Maryland appears to be Maryland again.

1. GEORGIA

"Finish the Drill." Ever since Mark Richt took over the Georgia program in 2001, that has been the catch phrase to keep his team focused. The Bulldogs have "finished" well for Richt, helping turn an above-average program into one of the elite. After two straight trips to the SEC title game and 24 wins during the last two seasons, Georgia is ready to take the next step with a loaded team that is ready to win its first national championship since 1980. End David Pollack stars on what should be one of the nation's best defensive front sevens, and most of the inconsistencies of last year's offense should be gone with returning quarterback David Greene throwing to wide receiver Fred Gibson and working behind an experienced and talented offensive line. The Chapel bell will be ringing often this year, with Bulldogs fans hearing sweet music all the way to the finish line in Miami.

2. USC

Nothing is more dangerous than a talented team scorned. USC coach Pete Carroll will have little trouble motivating his Trojans after not being invited to the BCS's VIP lounge last season. Don't let some of the personnel losses on the offensive line and at defensive end and cornerback fool you; this team is even more loaded than last year's Associated Press and *Sporting News* national champion. Start with



FLORIDA STATE
Chris Rix

DAVID DUROCHIK FOR TSN

Heisman Trophy candidate Matt Leinart at quarterback, one of the best defensive lines in the country, healthy linebacker Matt Grootegoed and even more star power available from the nation's best recruiting class. If the BCS formula doesn't penalize the Trojans for their cakewalk of a schedule (two teams, Virginia Tech and California, from TSN's Top 25), no one else will need convincing the Trojans should be playing for a national title.

3. OKLAHOMA

With everyone jumping off the Sooner Schooner bandwagon after the way last season ended, it's easy to overlook that quarterback Jason White and the offense averaged more than 50 points against the seven bowl teams they faced in the regular season, not to mention the 77 they dropped on Texas A&M. But the 2003 offense might look like a squirt gun when compared with the firepower of this year's group. Almost everyone returns, including Heisman winner White, wide receiver Mark Clayton, offensive tackle Jammal Brown and a rock-solid offensive line backed up by a second unit that is close to first class. If that's not enough, the running game could get a major upgrade from superstar recruit Adrian Peterson. The defense has to replace a who's who of award winners and still needs to win a game without coordinator Mike Stoops, but this is Oklahoma; everything will work out just fine.

4. LSU

LSU's first big win of 2004 was over Oklahoma in the Sugar Bowl for the BCS national championship. A close second (at least so far) was the signing of coach Nick Saban to a long-term contract that will keep the Tigers in the hunt to win several more titles. Long known as a fantastic recruiter and tough defensive coach, Saban and his staff put it all together last season and have enough pieces left to make another title run. The defense again will rank among the best in the country, led by cornerback Corey Webster, end Marcus Spears and enough all-around speed for Saban to keep bringing his blitzes. Though a trip to Miami seems unlikely because of road games against Auburn, Georgia, Florida and Arkansas, there won't be much of a slip. The foundation is too solid, and the cornerstone isn't going anywhere.

5. FLORIDA STATE

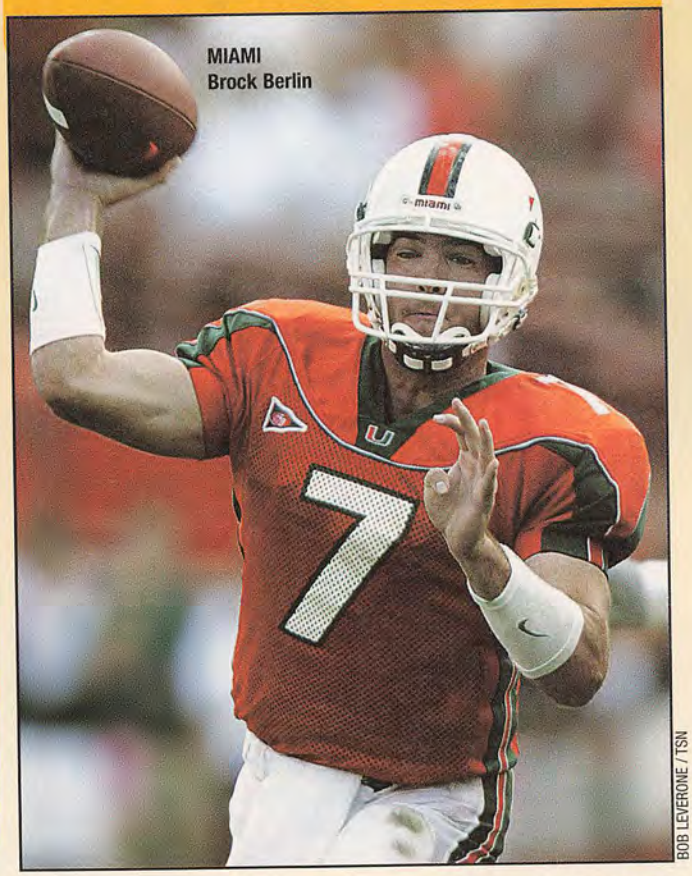
Is Florida State ready to love Chris Rix? The Seminoles' quarterback has endured most of the blame for the program's drop from elite-of-the-elite status, but he led the team to consecutive ACC titles and has the players around him to win a third. The new ACC certainly will make things more difficult, but no team has more returning offensive talent with star tackle Alex Barron, a track team at running back and wide receiver Craphonso Thorpe coming off a leg injury. The defense will be the biggest concern with a front seven decimated by graduation. But this is Florida State; reloading has never been a problem. So if Rix can avoid his patented "I-can't-believe-he-threw-that" mistakes, it will be business as usual for the championship-minded Seminoles.

6. OHIO STATE

Considering the Buckeyes won a second straight Fiesta Bowl with a strangely ineffective offense, little consistency at quarterback and the constant distraction of Maurice Clarett hanging over the program, losing many of the players that made the last two years so special isn't such a big deal. Inexperienced as most of the team is, the talent is in place to have another big season. Headliners will be A.J. Hawk and Air Force transfer Anthony Schlegel, who will provide a fantastic 1-2 linebacking punch, and Santonio Holmes, the leader of a dangerous group of receivers. Lydell Ross is in outstanding shape, determined to be one of the nation's elite running backs, but the best offensive weapon will continue to be ultra-consistent kicker Mike Nugent.

7. MIAMI (FLA.)

Those aren't hurricane sirens coming from South Beach, that's the sound of Miami fans screeching in panic over (gasp!) a two-loss season. The offense stunk against anyone with a pulse, the quarterbacks didn't perform well and miracles were needed to prevent a disastrous four-loss year. Oh yeah, Miami was the Big East co-champion, won the Orange Bowl and finished in the top five in both polls. The players are there for a national title run, with a horde of good receivers, running back Frank Gore recovered from a season-ending knee injury and the offensive line looking dominant again. Oh yeah, what about the quarterback situation? It's Brock Berlin's job to lose, but 2003 super recruit Kyle Wright is knocking on the door. The schedule is a relative breeze, with most of the tough games at the Orange Bowl.

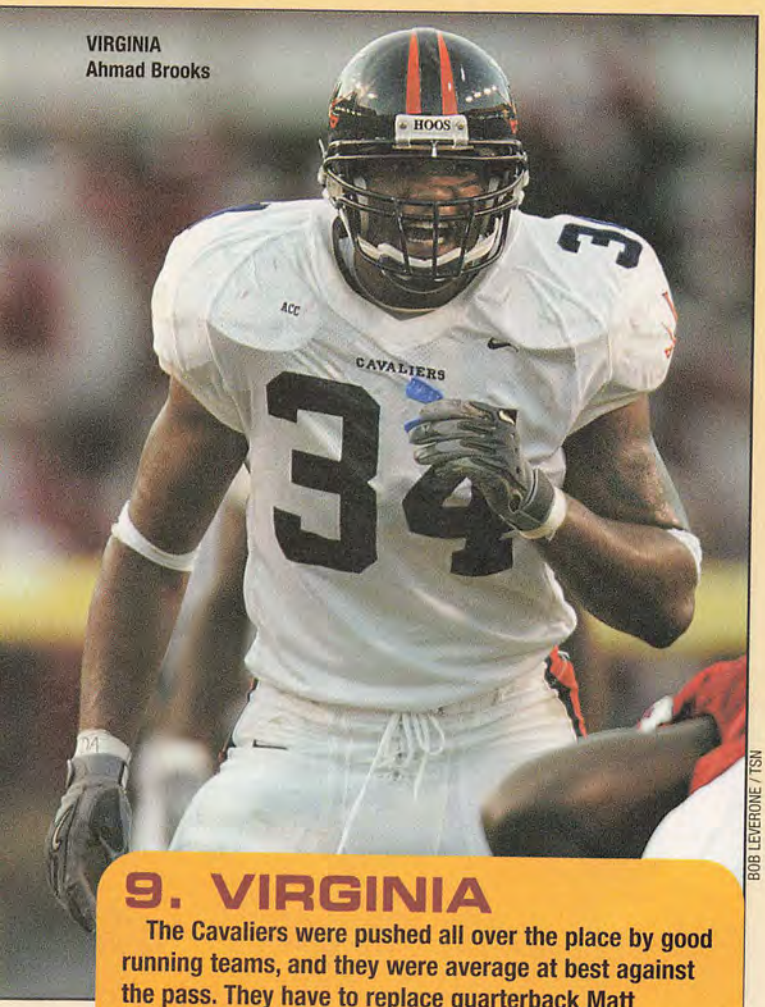


MIAMI
Brock Berlin

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

8. TEXAS

The (insert year) Texas Longhorns have one of the most talented teams in college football, led by (insert ridiculously good offensive players) and (insert ridiculously good defensive players), and are ready to break the (insert number)-game losing streak to Oklahoma and finally bring coach Mack Brown a Big 12 title. It's the same tired storyline, but it's an important one as Brown and the burnt orange labor to break their underachieving cycle. Running back Cedric Benson, quarterback Vince Young and linebacker Derrick Johnson all are among the most exciting players in college football, but new defensive coaches Dick Tomey and Greg Robinson could be the real difference-makers. The schedule is suited for a national title run, with many of the Longhorns' 11 opponents likely to be double-digit underdogs.



VIRGINIA
Ahmad Brooks

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

9. VIRGINIA

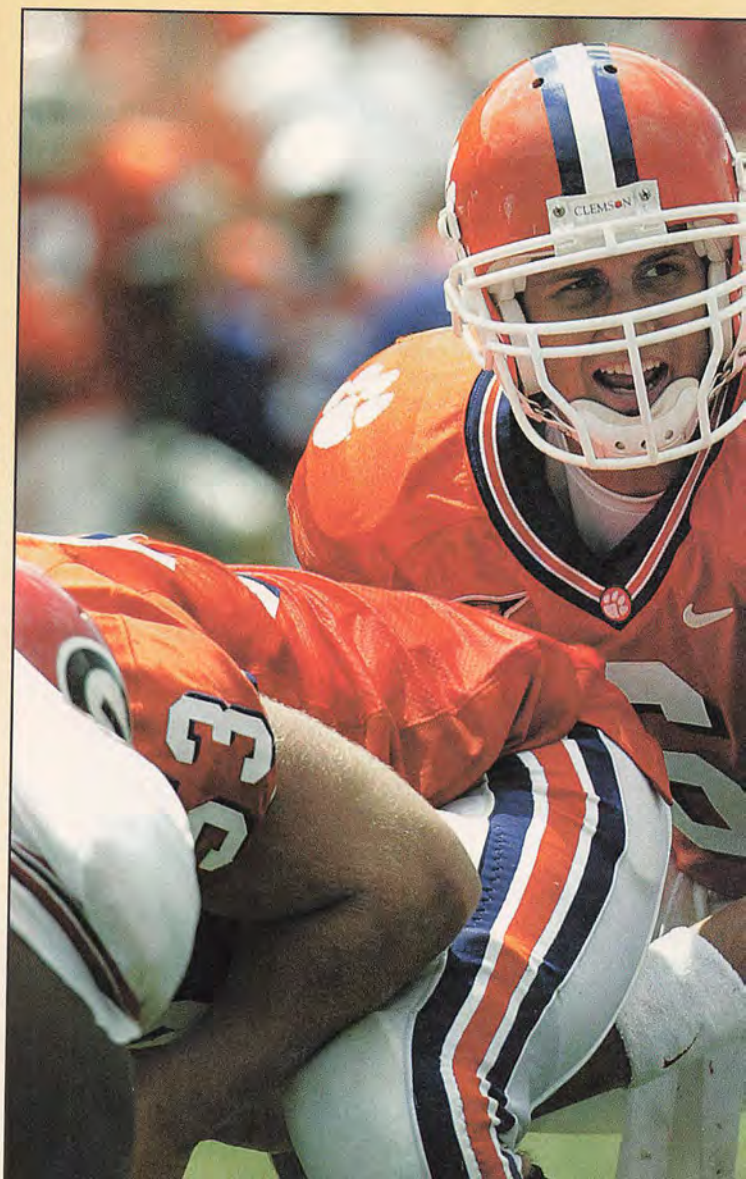
The Cavaliers were pushed all over the place by good running teams, and they were average at best against the pass. They have to replace quarterback Matt Schaub and go on the road to face Florida State and Virginia Tech. They also will have home-field showdowns with Clemson and Miami. And, oh yeah, they will be really, really good. The defense will make a quantum leap in production with all of coach Al Groh's star recruits ready to jell, highlighted by Ahmad Brooks and the best young group of linebackers in the country. Marques Hagans might not be Schaub, but he's experienced and will keep the offense moving with his mobility and his arm. Even though the schedule is imposing, Virginia is good enough to hang with anyone. Groh's young team is ready to grow up.

10. MICHIGAN

They booed him, scrutinized him and criticized his every move. Now Wolverines fans are going to miss John Navarre, especially if Braylon Edwards and a talented bunch of receivers don't get the opportunity to shine. This is a flawed team compared with last year's balanced and experienced Big Ten champion. Coach Lloyd Carr will have to deal with the loss of Heisman-finalist running back Chris Perry and most of a defensive front. Fortunately, linebackers Pierre Woods and Lawrence Reid and defensive backs Marlin Jackson and Ernest Shazor are star-caliber talents; so is guard David Baas. But all eyes will be focused on the quarterback derby. Strong-armed sophomore Matt Gutierrez will get the first shot with redshirt freshman Clayton Richard and Spencer Brinton, who's coming off a shoulder injury, in the mix. All are good prospects, but they need time and patience. Ask Navarre how much of either they'll get.

11. CALIFORNIA

Outside of the BCS formula, California was all that slowed down the mighty USC Trojan machine last season. But that won't be the last big win for the Bears under coach Jeff Tedford, thanks to quarterback Aaron Rodgers, wide receiver Geoff McArthur and one of the Pac-10's most exciting offenses. Rodgers threw for 1,101 yards and eight touchdowns in his final three games, highlighted by his thrilling Insight Bowl performance against Virginia Tech. McArthur, if he finally stays healthy, will be one of the nation's statistical leaders. But



all of the positive buzz around the program could go bye-bye quickly with four of the first five games on the road, including a trip to play angry USC, and a defense that has to patch gaping holes in the secondary. Adversity is nothing new to Tedford and Cal. They'll just keep on scoring.

12. FLORIDA

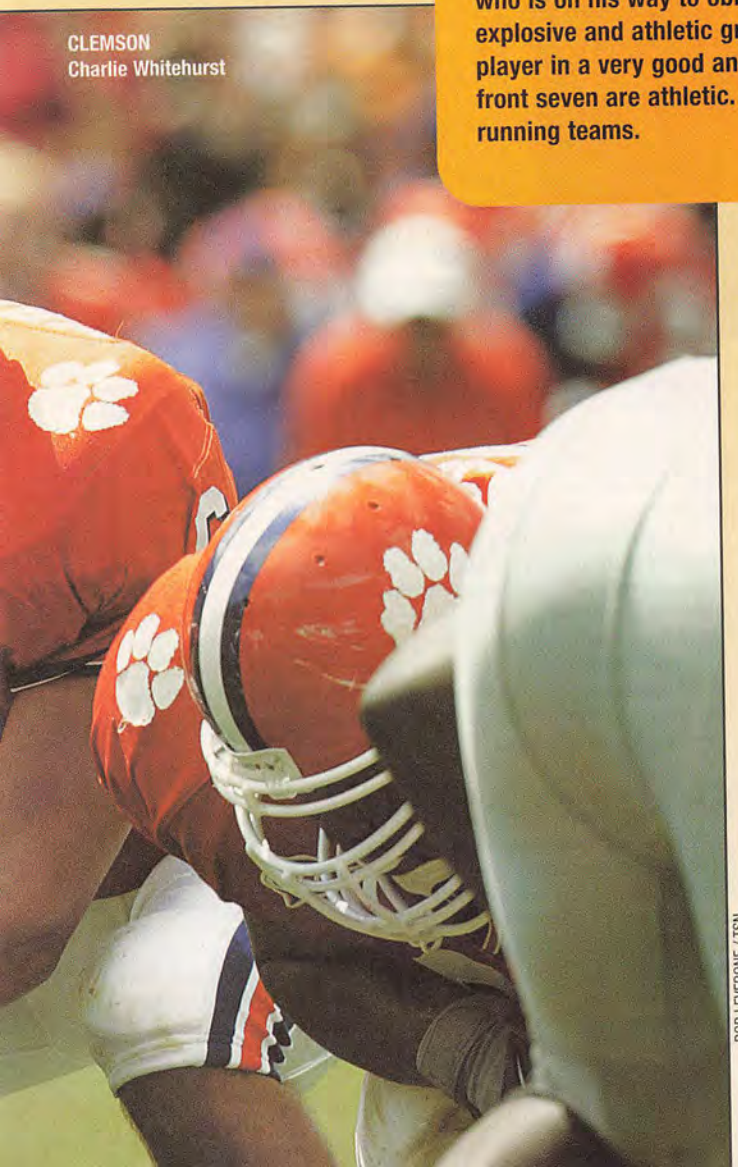
That huge shadow looming over The Swamp is wearing a visor. With favorite son Steve Spurrier all dressed up with no place to coach, few teams will be more closely scrutinized or will face tougher expectations than Florida. Gator fans are demanding that coach Ron Zook's highly acclaimed recruiting classes of the past few years pay dividends—now. Zook still hasn't led Florida to an SEC title game, and two straight embarrassing Outback Bowl losses haven't made the offseasons rosy. Florida is older and better with steady quarterback Chris Leak and eight other starters returning to the offense and tackling machine linebacker Channing Crowder leading a veteran defense. The players are there to be SEC champions, but Zook has to prove he can win with them. Developmental time no longer is a luxury.

14. MISSOURI

It goes against conventional wisdom to build your program around one player. He could get hurt, he could leave early for the NFL or he could turn out to be a typical, flaky college kid. Then again, most programs don't have a Brad Smith. The grounded, multi-talented junior has turned Mizzou into one of the new hot programs, attracting top recruits to Columbia specifically to play alongside him. The rest of the Tigers aren't bad, either, with nine returning starters on defense, led by unappreciated linebacker James Kinney, a big offensive line and a rising star in running back Damien Nash. The schedule also is favorable, with Colorado and Kansas State at home and a soft nonconference slate. It's Smith's show, and he will be looking to lead the Tigers to their first Big 12 North title. He's capable of pulling it off.

13. CLEMSON

A funny thing happened as coach Tommy Bowden stumbled toward a forced retirement. Clemson finally started to play up to expectations and posted wins over Florida State and Tennessee in an impressive four-game closing stretch. His career resurrected, Bowden must keep the momentum going, even with a schedule that includes a brutal early three-game road stretch at Texas A&M, Florida State and Virginia, not to mention opponents who will be ready for his more offensive Tigers. The offense should roll behind quarterback Charlie Whitehurst, who is on his way to obliterating all of the school's passing records, and an explosive and athletic group of receivers. Cornerback Justin Miller is a marquee player in a very good and fast secondary; linebacker Leroy Hill and the defensive front seven are athletic. But the defense again will have problems against power-running teams.



CLEMSON
Charlie Whitehurst

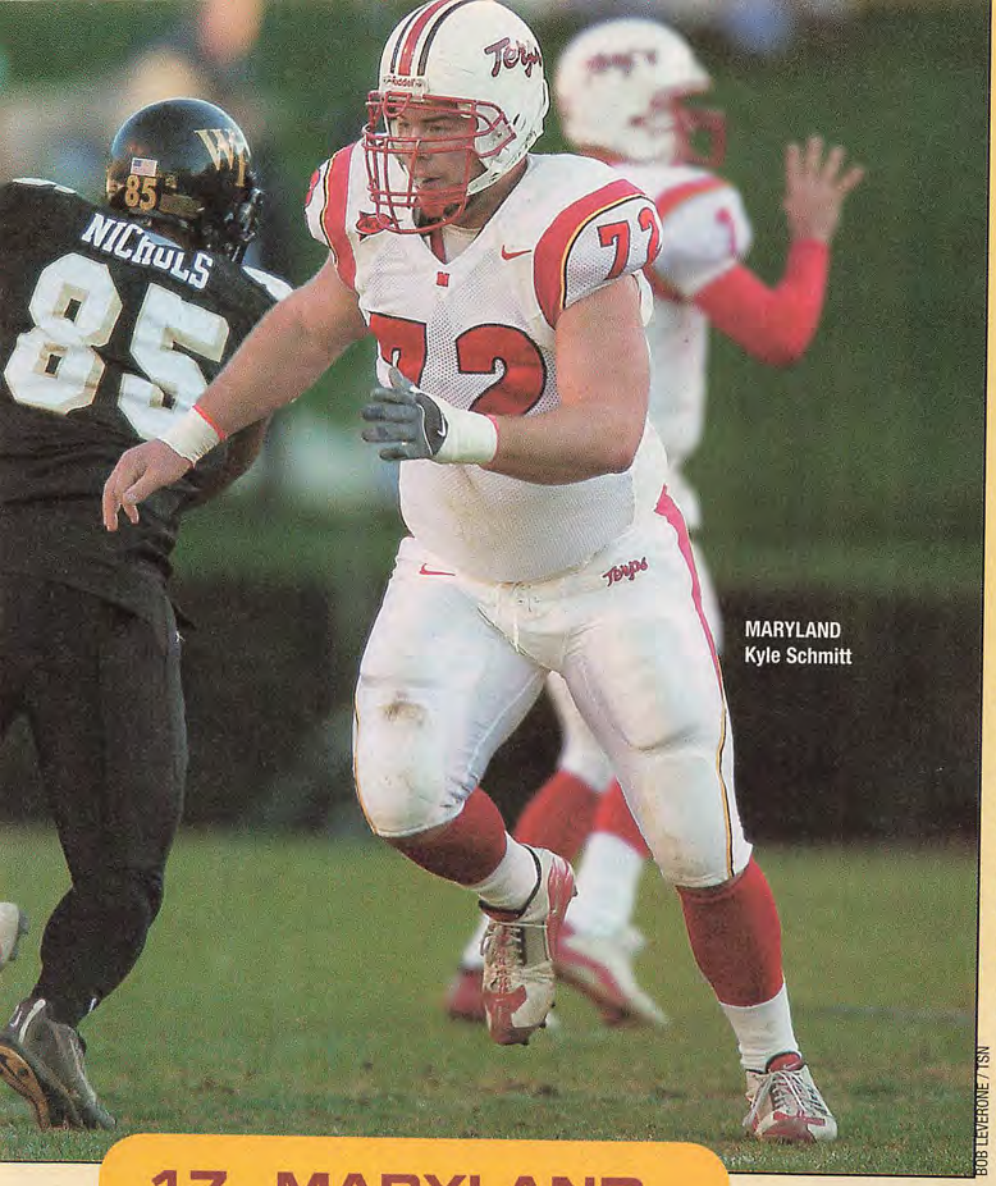
BOB LEVERONE / TSN

15. WEST VIRGINIA

Goodbye Miami, hello BCS. Because the ACC-bound Hurricanes were the only Big East team to beat the Mountaineers over the last two years, expectations naturally are high that the team finally can win an outright league title and get to a New Year's Day bowl. Kay Jay Harris is set to be the new star running back, and veteran quarterback Rasheed Marshall and premier deep threat Chris Henry provide pop for the passing attack. The pass defense needs to tighten up from last season when it allowed 260 yards per game, and a replacement must be found for all-conference linebacker Grant Wiley. But coach Rich Rodriguez and his staff have overcome far greater problems without making excuses. With the right breaks and a favorable schedule, West Virginia could have Miami on its mind as a destination rather than an opponent.

16. IOWA

Just imagine how good Iowa might have been last season if it hadn't been in a rebuilding mode. The Hawkeyes, having lost Heisman finalist Brad Banks and most of their offensive line, were decimated by injuries to the receivers and struggled on offense—but still won 10 games and destroyed Florida in the Outback Bowl. If coach Kirk Ferentz and the Hawkeyes can handle that kind of adversity, this year will be a breeze. The foundation is in place for one of the Big Ten's best defensive front sevens, led by linebackers Abdul Hodge and Chad Greenway (a combined 273 tackles last year) and pass rushing terror Matt Roth on the end. With Ohio State and Wisconsin coming to Iowa City, it's possible a trip to Ann Arbor—and needed production from the slew of new skill players—is all that stands in the way of a second Big Ten title in three years.



MARYLAND
Kyle Schmitt

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

17. MARYLAND

This is no longer a program on the rise; it is an established star with 31 victories in three years, including consecutive bowl wins by a combined 71-10 score. Only nine starters return, but the potential is there for another huge year. It starts with running back Josh Allen working behind All-ACC linemen Kyle Schmitt and C.J. Brooks. Fast, hard-hitting linebacker D'Qwell Jackson is a star about to explode on a national scale; all-conference cornerback Domonique Foxworth will be the leader of an inexperienced but athletic secondary. The future is bright, thanks to one of the most decorated recruiting classes in school history. But the present is not bad, either. The Terps need to come out strong after starting 0-2 last year and 1-2 in 2002. They don't have to play Miami, and thorn-in-the-side Florida State comes to College Park.

18. OREGON

After an 8-5 2003 season that included a Sun Bowl loss to Minnesota, the Ducks appear good enough to contend for the Pac-10 title. They gave up 260 yards per game through the air and were outscored, 125-47, in the fourth quarter of games last season, but the Ducks should be more consistent with quarterback Kellen Clemens not having to platoon anymore and all-purpose running back Terrence Whitehead taking the pressure off the passing attack. Pass-rush star Devan Long and the best Pac-10 line outside of L.A. consistently will get to the quarterback, helping the soft secondary. The schedule is nice and soft, missing USC and hosting Arizona State, Washington and UCLA.

19. AUBURN

So you already have given up on Auburn. It will be hard to convince anyone the Tigers can win an SEC title after last year's puzzling disappointment, but things shape up nicely with a senior-dominated team and a decent schedule that has heavyweights LSU and Georgia visiting Jordan-Hare Stadium. Carnell Williams and Ronnie Brown provide one of the nation's top 1-2 rushing punches in a loaded offense, and quarterback Jason Campbell, the school's most accurate career passer at 62 percent, returns along with most of his receiving weapons. The defensive front seven needs work—you don't get better losing linebackers such as Karlos Dansby and Dontarrious Thomas—but the secondary will shine with the return of cornerback Carlos Rogers and two other starters. Things might not have worked out when Auburn was the favorite last season, but keep an eye on the Tigers in a more suitable underdog role.

20. KANSAS STATE

What do you do for an encore after finishing the greatest rebuilding project in college football history by winning a Big 12 title? Do it again, of course. Bill Snyder and Kansas State have a good enough team at least to get back to the conference championship game, even if they need a little time to reload. Ell Roberson might have been the best quarterback ever to play in Manhattan. His departure not only means the loss of a talented player but also a veteran leader who earned his stripes in the system. A passing attack has to be developed quickly, or defenses are going to put everyone on the line to stop running back Darren Sproles. There are issues: Seven key defensive players, including end Andrew Shull and linebacker Josh Buhl, have to be replaced. But this is 2004, not 1984. It's about reloading now.

21. UTAH

After an exciting season that produced a Mountain West title and Liberty Bowl win under new coach Urban Meyer, Utah's toughest opponent could be itself. Expectations will be high, and opponents will be pumped to beat the champion. The Utes need to improve a little in just about every area to navigate through a suddenly nasty Mountain West, with tough road games looming at San Diego State and New Mexico. The offense will rely heavily on quarterback Alex Smith throwing to deep-threat receivers Paris Warren and Steve Savoy; the defense, with a great core of players, eventually should be

as stingy and reliable as it was at the end of last season. The Utes won five games by a touchdown or less and will have to be just as good in tight games with a tough conference schedule.

22. LOUISVILLE

Every year, some average mid-major team with a fluffy schedule captures the imagination of college football. But don't make the mistake of throwing Louisville in that class. There's no weakness in a Cardinals attack that finished fifth nationally last season in total offense and returns lots of experience. Coach Bobby Petrino has lightning speed at receiver, a wealth of good running backs, massive offensive linemen and several all-star athletes, including quarterback Stefan LeFors. A road date at Memphis and a home showdown against TCU will be tough, but a team that wants to play with the big boys has to win those games. A matchup against Miami on October 14 at the Orange Bowl could be of more consequence. That's when the Cardinals will find out what they're made of.

24. TENNESSEE

Known for its exciting skill players and big-play defenders, Tennessee fans easily could identify the team's most valuable performer in 2003—punter Dustin Colquitt. Despite year after year of tremendous recruiting classes, the Vols became shockingly stagnant and were bailed out consistently by the talented All-American, who returns for more in 2004. The defense opens the season needing seven new starters, and a replacement is needed for underappreciated quarterback Casey Clausen. And things didn't start out well this spring with top wide receiver/quarterback James Banks suspended and running back Gerald Riggs nursing an ankle sprain. On the plus side, if the Vols can handle the mediocre production of last year and still come away with 10 victories, maybe being a little dull isn't such a bad thing.

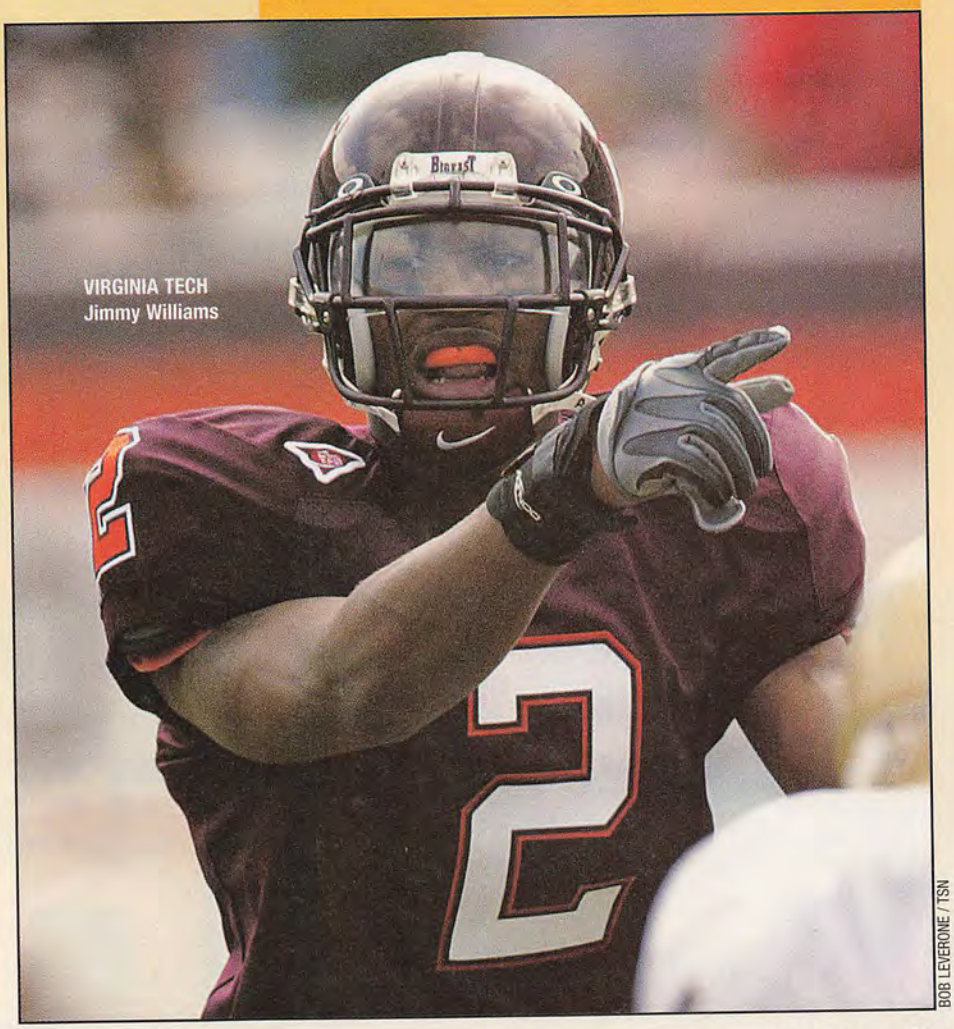
25. TOLEDO

There was a national coming-out party in the MAC last season, but Toledo's invitation got lost in the mail. The eight-win Rockets, the 2001 conference co-champions, were an afterthought because Miami, Northern Illinois and Bowling Green received most of the publicity. That'll change in 2004. All the key offensive pieces are in place, including accurate quarterback Bruce Gradkowski, game-breaking receiver Lance Moore and the best stable of running backs in the MAC. Offensive tackle Nick Kaczur will be one of the best linemen in America, not just the MAC. The Rockets have some issues; they need to rebuild the defensive line and tighten up a secondary that allowed 238.2 passing yards per game. But there will be time to get things together with a schedule that softens after opening road games at Minnesota and Kansas. **TSN**

Pete Fiutak is the editor of Collegefootballnews.com.

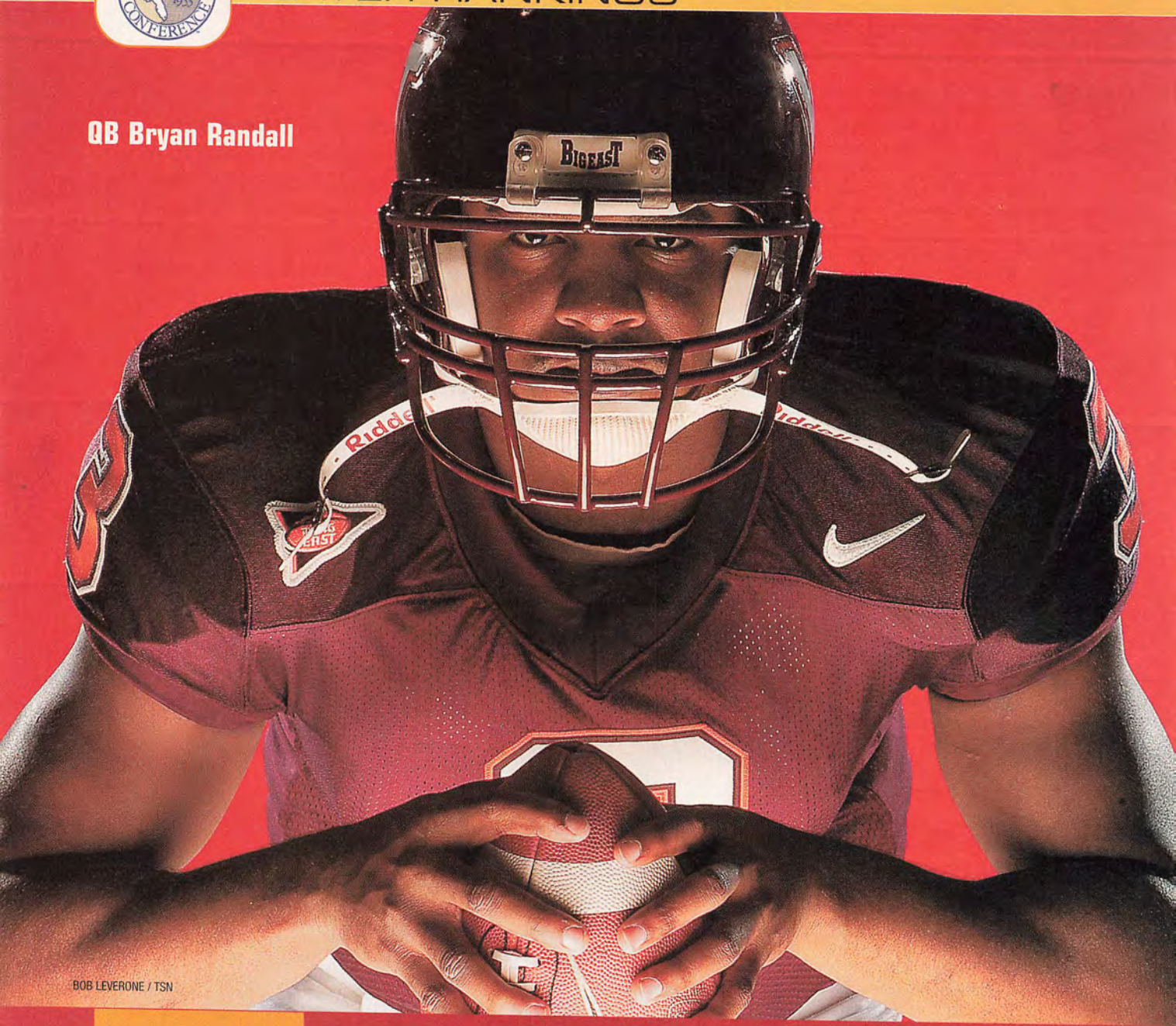
23. VIRGINIA TECH

The Hokies have been a tale of two seasons over the last four years. They have posted a 28-2 record before Halloween, a frightful 10-12 mark after it. Coach Frank Beamer's goal in Tech's first ACC season will be less about finding replacements for a who's who of NFL talent than avoiding that nightmarish finishing kick. The close to this year's schedule features home games against Maryland and Virginia and a trip to Miami; the season-opener is against USC. Quarterback Bryan Randall and safety-turned-corner Jimmy Williams are the stars of a faceless team, but anonymity is probably a good thing after years of high expectations. With no national title aspirations, the Hokies hope they can sneak up on everyone and finally finish a season alive.



VIRGINIA TECH
Jimmy Williams

BOB LEVERONE / TSN



Top of the line

The ACC's best players, position by position

By Tom Dienhart

QUARTERBACKS

STARTERS

1. Charlie Whitehurst, Clemson. He came into his own last year and is ready to become an elite passer. The son of former NFL quarterback David Whitehurst, Charlie is a rangy pocket passer who has good accuracy and nice arm strength. He continues to refine his ability to read defenses.

2. Chris Rix, Florida State. He made strides last year after being dogged by inconsistency and mistakes his first two years under center. Rix is doing a better job of recognizing defenses. His athletic ability allows him to improvise when the pocket breaks down.

3. Bryan Randall, Virginia Tech. Over time, Randall has become less athlete and more quarterback. His biggest area of improvement has been in passing. He now is more apt to sit in the pocket and let his receivers break open instead of taking off, although that still is a dangerous aspect of his game.

4. Darian Durant, North Carolina. Durant doesn't have the classic quarterback build, but he gets the job done. He has a terrific arm, but he gets passes knocked down because of his lack of height. Durant operates best when on the move because it gives him the option to use his athletic ability and to run.

5. Brock Berlin, Miami. Was this guy really considered the nation's top high school quarterback coming out of high school in 2001? Berlin had an inconsistent debut last year after transferring from Florida. Many question his arm strength, and his decision-making has been dubious at times. He will be on a short leash because coaches are excited about redshirt freshman Kyle Wright.

BACKUPS

1. Marcus Vick, Virginia Tech. He lacks the arm strength of his big brother, Michael, but Marcus is a dynamic athlete and has great upside. He is raw and needs to become a better passer, and his decision-making must improve, but he has shown a willingness to learn. His status for the season is uncertain because of an off-field incident.

2. Kyle Wright, Miami. He wowed coaches last year when he was redshirting. With a year under his belt, Wright looks prepared for extended duty. He has a strong arm, good instincts and a growing understanding of the offense.

3. Ben Mauk, Wake Forest. The redshirt freshman is waiting his turn behind Cory Randolph, but look for Mauk to get into games from time to time this fall. Why? Because the coaches are excited about Mauk's potential after he threw for 6,540 yards and 76 touchdowns in high school.

RUNNING BACKS

BETWEEN THE TACKLES

1. P.J. Daniels, Georgia Tech. Daniels blossomed last year, giving Tech a much-needed boost in the running game. He lacks great size but is a strong runner who has good balance and instincts. If things get congested inside, he can bounce out and make something happen.

2. Josh Allen, Maryland. He has enough size to move the pile if a tough yard is needed. Allen is good around the goal line because of strong leg drive and dogged determination. He also has good instincts and the ability to make the first guy miss.

3. Ronnie McGill, North Carolina. McGill showed flashes last year as a true freshman. He has a knack for feeling his way through the line. If nothing is there, McGill relishes lowering his shoulder and plowing ahead. His good balance makes it difficult for tacklers to knock him down.

OUTSIDE/SPEED

1. T.A. McLendon, N.C. State. He hit the ground running as a true freshman in 2002 and hasn't stopped. McLendon is a great pass catcher but lacks size. Still, he's a powerful back who breaks tackles and explodes through the hole. McLendon is motivated not to let injuries dog him like they did last season.

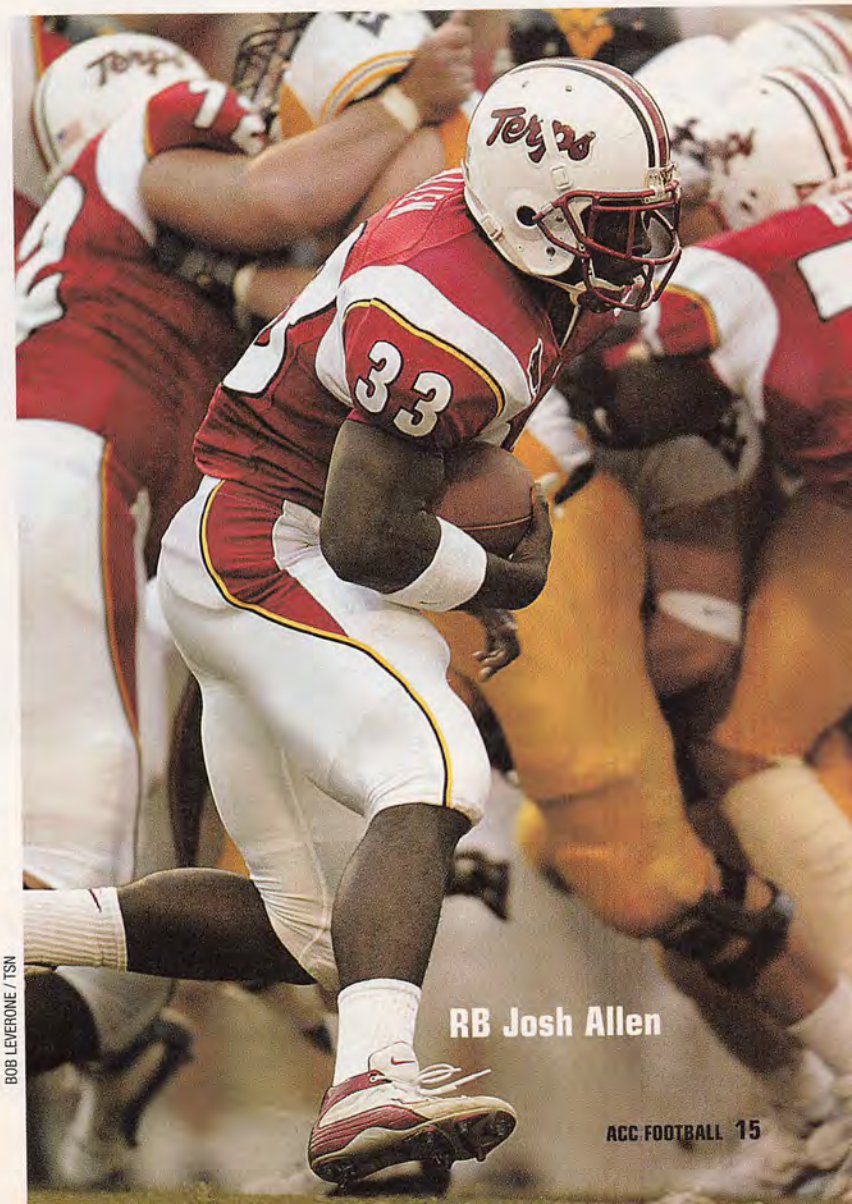
2. Frank Gore, Miami. Health permitting, Gore could be one of the nation's most dynamic backs. He's a compact runner who explodes through the hole. Once Gore gets into the open field, he's almost impossible to chase down. But will the second knee injury make him a tentative runner?

3. Chris Barclay, Wake Forest. The ACC's top rusher last season, Barclay has a surprising burst that allows him to compensate for his smallish stature. He also has shown toughness near the goal line, where he can fight for extra yards and shake off would-be tacklers. However, he can wear down late in games.

4. Tyrone Moss, Miami. He's built a lot like Frank Gore, and he's almost as fast. Moss showed good vision while filling in last year; he can slide down the line and feel his way over blockers. When Moss sees a seam develop, he's quick to burst through. Once in the open field, he has defenders where he wants them.

THIRD DOWN

1. Wali Lundy, Virginia. For a junior, Lundy has played a lot of football. He has ideal size and nice change-of-direction ability. In the Cavaliers' pro set, Lundy often catches passes in the flat, where he uses his moves to make people miss. Along with teammate Alvin



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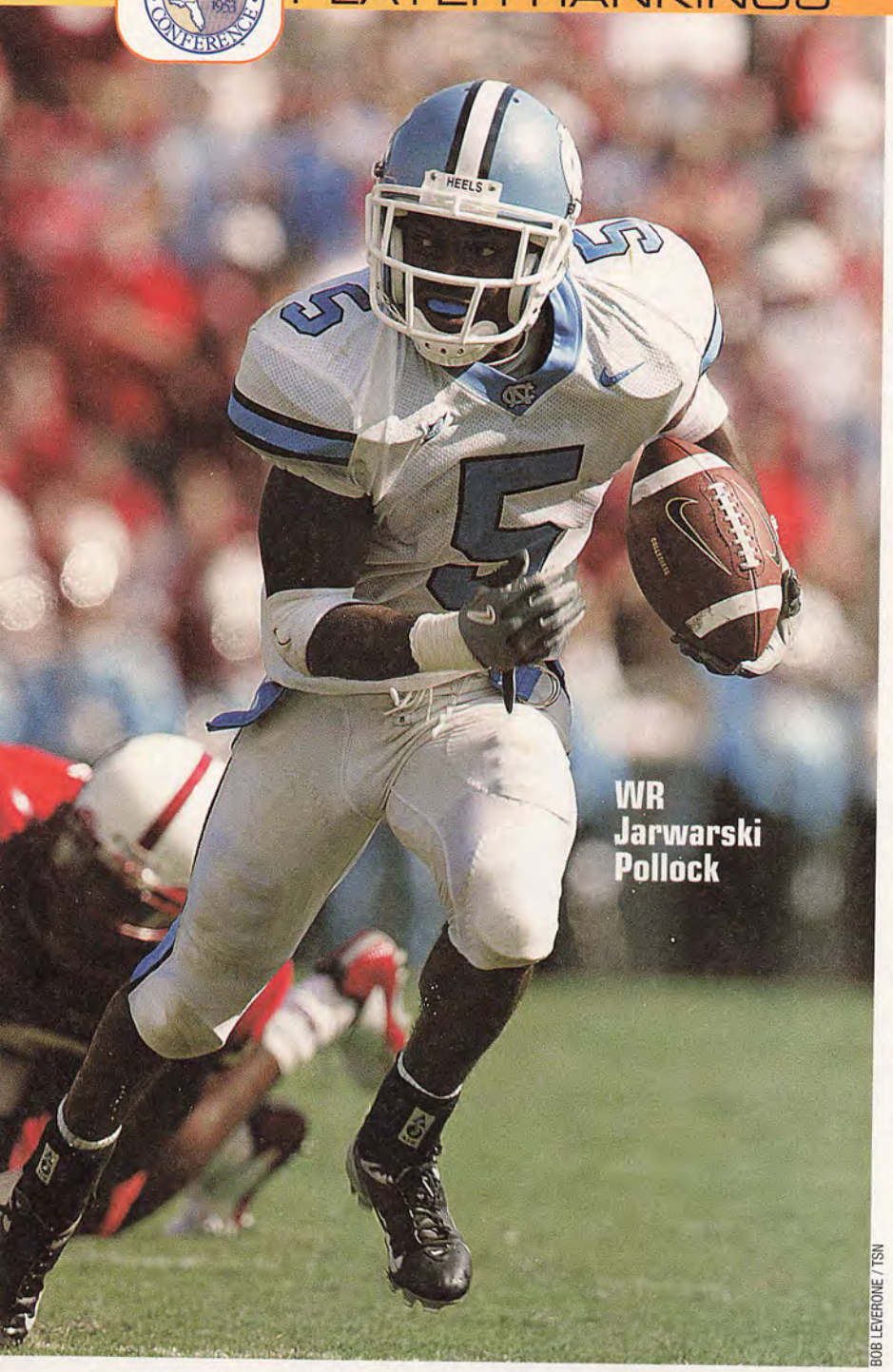
RB Josh Allen



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Pearman, Lundy is a perfect back for a West Coast offense.

2. Jacque Lewis, North Carolina. Darian Durant often looks for Lewis on third downs, and Lewis' ability to make something happen after the catch is uncanny. He won't run over people but has the ability to make the first guy miss and the vision to see blocks develop downfield.

3. Duane Coleman, Clemson. With so many key targets no longer available, Coleman could be a favorite after nabbing 34 passes last year. He's shifty in the open field, has good balance and plenty of speed.

4. Lorenzo Booker, Florida State. The Seminoles have a good one in Booker, who can slip into the flat, catch passes and make moves. He is a slippery sort who is difficult to tackle, but he must stay healthy.

FULLBACKS

RUNNERS

1. Quadtrine Hill, Miami. Hill doesn't have ideal size, but he is a strong runner and can get tough yards in short-yard situations. He also has the toughness to block and can catch the ball out of the backfield.

2. Kyle Cobia, Miami. Cobia excels at finishing blocks and has shown an ability to move the pile. He also has good balance and is physical at the point of attack. The coaches aren't averse to getting him a touch or two, and he has the ability to deliver.

3. Jason Snelling, Virginia. With Snelling back after missing last year because of an injury, look for the offense to lean more on the fullback. He caught 31 passes as a freshman in 2002.

BLOCKERS

1. B.J. Dean, Florida State. He is one of the biggest fullbacks in the nation and puts the girth to good use as a lead blocker. He's adept at squaring his shoulders and driving through defenders. Coaches marvel at his leg drive and determination to finish every block.

2. Jimmy Dixon, Georgia Tech. The former tailback has nice skills, but the coaching staff doesn't ask him to do much more than knock folks backward. And Dixon is good at it, even though he lacks ideal size.

3. Madison Hedgecock, North Carolina. Hedgecock moved to defensive end last year out of necessity, but he is back at his familiar fullback slot. He is massive and has more athletic ability than an average fullback. That makes him good in space.

WIDE RECEIVERS

ROUTE RUNNERS

1. Jarwarski Pollock, North Carolina. He's a little guy who gets by because he knows how to make each route look the same. Pollock is quick out of his cuts and works well with quarterback Darian Durant. However, Pollock isn't effective in the red zone because of his lack of size.

2. Craphonso Thorpe, Florida State. After grabbing 17 passes in 2002, Thorpe stepped up and caught 51 last year. He's a long, lean strider who has gotten better at running routes. Thorpe has improved the consistency of his hands and finally appears primed to deliver fully on the great hype that followed him to Tallahassee.

3. Roscoe Parrish, Miami. A gnat, Parrish slowly has emerged as one of the Hurricanes' go-to wideouts. He has nice hands, but his ability to accelerate out of breaks and get separation from defenders makes him special. Once in space, Parrish is in his element.

DEEP SPEED

1. Tramain Hall, N.C. State. Hall had to sit out two years after an extended NCAA eligibility issue, but he showed he was worth the wait last season. He must get open more consistently, but he's a load to handle in the open field, where he uses his moves to gain yards after the catch.

2. Ryan Moore, Miami. Moore showed last year as a freshman why

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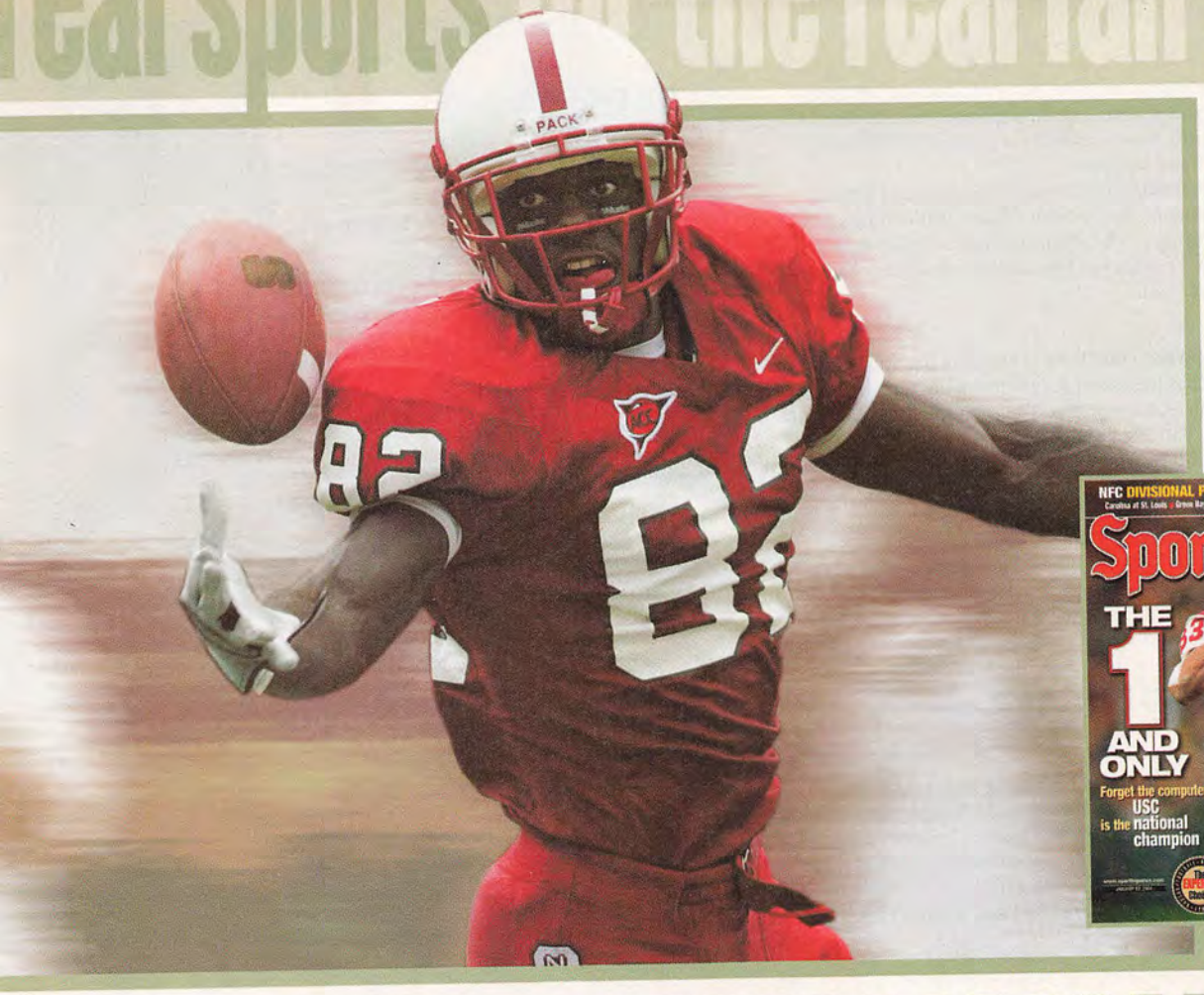

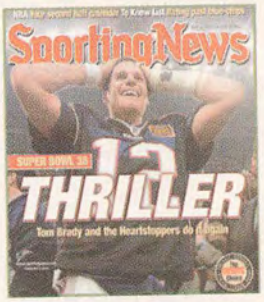

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so many schools were recruiting him. Not only does he have good size, he also has an extra gear that defensive backs must respect. If given too much cushion, Moore can take a quick hitch pass, turn upfield, make a move and be gone.

3. Airese Currie, Clemson. With Derrick Hamilton and Kevin Youngblood gone, someone has to catch Charlie Whitehurst's passes. Currie flirted with playing pro baseball, got hurt and was slow to develop. But he showed flashes last year and has the speed that makes defensive coordinators sweat.

POSSESSION

1. Jason Anderson, Wake Forest. He is entering his third year as a contributor. The coaches like him because he's a big target who is easy to find over the middle. Anderson has displayed toughness and the ability to fight for the ball. He has good hands.

2. Brian Clark, N.C. State. The Wolfpack will look for him to continue his unglamorous but steady play. Clark is a rangy wideout who is difficult to knock off his route. He is a mismatch for smaller defensive backs who have little chance of batting away the ball in traffic.

3. Nate Curry, Georgia Tech. He hurt a knee in the summer of 2001 that forced him to miss the season. Then, he grabbed just one pass in 2002. But Curry was back to his usual self last year, though he isn't as explosive as before. Expect Curry's numbers to continue to rise as quarterback Reggie Ball gets more patient in the pocket.

TIGHT ENDS

BLOCKERS

1. Jeff King, Virginia Tech. He's a big reason the Hokies' running game will continue to hum at an efficient pace. King is a strong blocker who has good technique and a mean streak.

2. Bobby Williamson, Clemson. He teams with Ben Hall to give the Tigers one of the better tight end duos in the ACC. Williams is a physical blocker who often gets overlooked in Clemson's finesse offense.

RECEIVERS

1. Heath Miller, Virginia. He made an instant impact as a freshman in 2002 and soon might be the nation's top tight end. Miller has ideal size to be an effective blocker. His hands and knack for getting open make him a third-down favorite.

2. T.J. Williams, N.C. State. Williams still is developing as a blocker, but his receiving skills are advanced. He has shown an ability to find holes in zones and get open. He's athletic enough to gain yards after the catch and can shake off would-be tacklers.

3. Andy Roland, Duke. The Blue Devils have a nice situation at tight end. Roland has shown a knack for hanging onto the ball and making catches in traffic.

OFFENSIVE TACKLES

LEFT SIDE

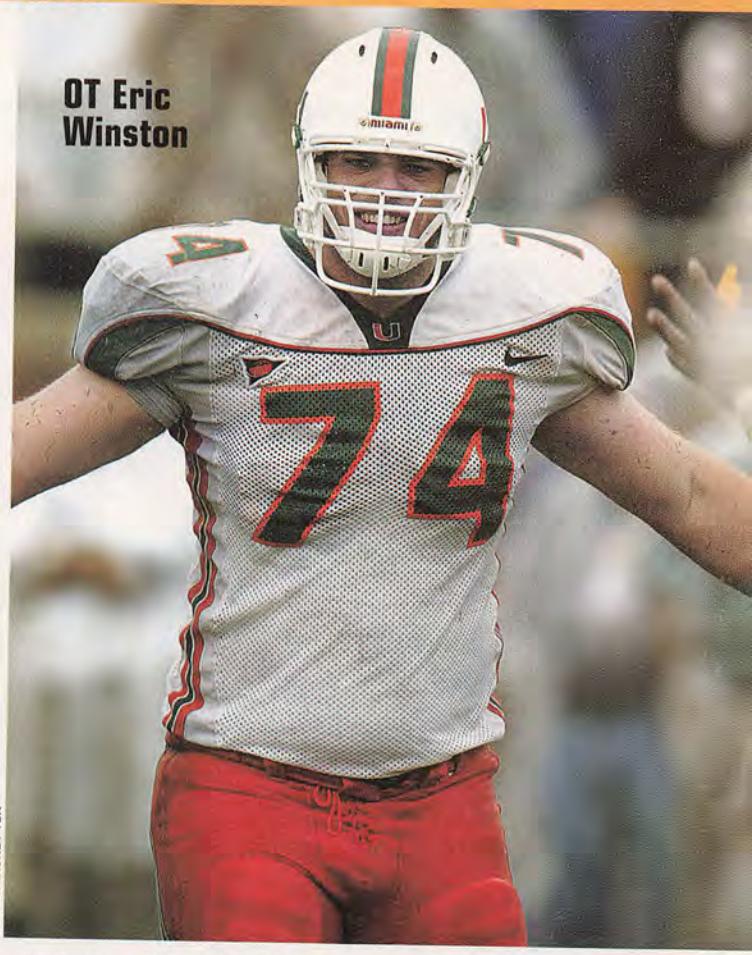
1. Eric Winston, Miami. He was wise to switch from tight end earlier in his career. Now, he's a star. Winston has enormous size, which allows him to overwhelm opponents. Coaches like the way he sets up quickly in pass protection, and he rarely gets beaten by a speed rusher. He's the school's best since Bryant McKinnie.

2. Alex Barron, Florida State. He has the height and mass to dominate at the point of attack. Barron has good feet and rarely gets beat around his outside shoulder, and his long arms keep defenders at bay. Plus, Barron plays with a defensive attitude.

3. Willie McNeill, North Carolina. He has developed into an equally adept run and pass blocker during his tenure at Chapel Hill. The coaches like his ability to maintain his balance while moving to offer help on a double-team. McNeill's strength allows him to overwhelm undersized speed rushers.

4. Jimmy Martin, Virginia Tech. Martin began his career on the right side but moved to the left before last season. He has enough strength to overpower foes and is athletic enough to excel in pass blocking.

5. D'Brickashaw Ferguson, Virginia. He didn't have his "A game" last year but still was dominating at times. Ferguson is a good athlete who has improved his strength and is difficult to beat outside.



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RIGHT SIDE

1. Jon Dunn, Virginia Tech. Although he's one of the biggest tackles in the nation, he has good enough feet to play without the protection of a tight end. Dunn can overcome opponents with his power. He also sets up quickly and extends his arms in pass protection.

2. Kyle Wallace, Georgia Tech. He's a powerful player who has gotten bigger and stronger over the years. When the Jackets need a tough yard, they usually run behind Wallace, who plays with a mean streak.

3. Ray Willis, Florida State. Willis continues to improve. He has the size to overwhelm defenders, and coaches appreciate his ability to lead. He makes few mistakes and helps maintain calm on the field.

4. Rashad Butler, Miami. Although Butler lacks prototypical size, he is a good technician who can dominate as a run blocker. He is strong for his size and that allows him to overpower defenders.

5. Derek Morris, N.C. State. A massive man, Morris can be susceptible to speed rushers. However, he has great strength and the ability to manhandle foes. With experience, he only will get better.

6. Steve Vallos, Wake Forest. He's making the move from right guard, but coaches aren't worried. Vallos has quick feet and the strength and explosiveness to play this power position on the edge of the line.

GUARDS

1. C.J. Brooks, Maryland. Brooks has the mass NFL scouts covet. He's a pure inside power player who can maul and dominate without any assistance. He moves fairly well for a man of his size.

2. Elton Brown, Virginia. Coaches are excited about Brown, who can overwhelm opponents at the point of attack. But he's more than a power player. The Cavaliers' West Coast offense requires Brown to pull, and he can get to the edge and pick off a corner.

3. Chris Myers, Miami. He has built himself into a lineman and still has room to add weight to his rangy 6-5 frame. Coaches let him use his athletic ability by having him pull. When he reaches the perimeter, Myers is agile enough to square up on defensive backs and knock them out of the play.

4. Cedric Johnson, Clemson. He plays with a mean streak and intensity that are rare for an offensive lineman. Johnson has improved the Tigers' performance in short-yardage situations. He's a sound technician who takes good angles and understands blocking principles.

5. Leroy Harris, N.C. State. He was a sensation last year as a redshirt freshman and is poised to move into an elite unit. Harris is an athletic sort who excels on the move. He has shown the strength to overpower foes.

CENTERS

1. David Castillo, Florida State. Castillo is short but powerful. He has a low center of gravity that allows him to get his pads under defenders and root them out of the hole. Castillo also is effective because he's quick out of his stance, usually catching his defender off guard and knocking him on his heels.

2. Jed Paulsen, N.C. State. He has a good understanding of the game, which helps him make line calls. Paulsen is like a coach on the field, helping to maintain a calm in the huddle. That will be especially important this year with Philip Rivers gone.

3. Kyle Schmitt, Maryland. At 6-5, he's one of the tallest centers in college football. Despite his height, Schmitt takes good blocking angles and is mindful to stay low out of his stance. He also has good strength and rarely gets knocked backward because of his good balance.

4. Jason Brown, North Carolina. He has loads of experience, and get this: He didn't allow a sack last year. Brown is a heady sort who helps direct traffic up front. He has improved his technique and become stronger.

DEFENSIVE ENDS

1. Eric Henderson, Georgia Tech. He was a freshman All-American in 2002 and continued to get better last year. Henderson frequently gets penetration because of his quick first step and explosive drive. As he becomes stronger, Henderson will be even more difficult to handle.

2. Chris Canty, Virginia. At 6-7, Canty can't help but be noticed. His long wingspan makes him a threat to knock down passes if he doesn't reach the quarterback before the release. He is surprisingly nimble for a player with such long limbs.

3. Eric Moore, Florida State. Moore isn't massive and can be controlled if a mammoth offensive tackle gets his hands on him, but that rarely happens. Why? Because of Moore's quickness, which catches linemen off guard and leaves them out of position to recover and block.

4. Phillip Alexander, Duke. He showed his playmaking skills last year, when he ranked third in the ACC with 18.5 tackles for losses. If he played for Florida State, Alexander would be a household name.

5. Baraka Atkins, Miami. He has held up well against the run, but to reach the next level, he must become more of a playmaker. He has the speed and athletic ability to leap to the top of this list next year.

6. Kevin Eli, Maryland. He is big enough to hold up while being run at and can fight off blocks and make the play. He has enough strength to fight through double-teams and is quick enough to run down ballcarriers from behind.

7. Jim Davis, Virginia Tech. He's back after missing last year with a chest injury. Few have Davis' ability to make big plays.

DEFENSIVE TACKLES

1. John McCargo, N.C. State. McCargo has the size needed to stand up, but his quick hands and feet make him a playmaker. He rarely gets knocked off course and has a knack for slipping blocks with some nifty twist moves.

2. Orien Harris, Miami. With Vince Wilfork off to the NFL, the Hurricanes will need Harris to be a disruptive inside force. Harris, whose older brother Kwame was a rookie offensive tackle with the 49ers last year, is active and excels at fighting off blocks

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and getting into the backfield.

3. Kevin Lewis, Virginia Tech. He's a sawed-off sort who stays low to the ground, which is why he's difficult to block. Lewis also is difficult to knock off his feet and has the strength to take on double-teams. He is an underrated athlete and has a quick burst that allows him to get penetration.

4. Brodrick Bunkley, Florida State. He's an active player who showed a knack for making plays last year in a reserve role. Bunkley has strength and an explosive first step, but he could stand to add weight. Still, his ability to get penetration makes him valuable.

LINEBACKERS

MIDDLE

1. Ahmad Brooks, Virginia. He made his much-anticipated debut last year and didn't disappoint. Brooks already has the size of an NFL linebacker. Now, it's just a matter of refining his technique. And not many are better at teaching that than Cavaliers coach Al Groh. Brooks is difficult to block because of his strength and quick feet, and he rarely misses a tackle in the open field.

2. Leroy Hill, Clemson. Hill is undersized for a middle man, but he compensates with intensity and smarts. Hill has a knack for reading his keys, avoiding traffic and finding the ball. And he arrives with a bad attitude. Hill's speed allows him to make plays from behind.

3. D'Qwell Jackson, Maryland. Jackson could stand to be heavier but has great quickness, which is what makes him special. Coaches also like his savvy—he rarely is caught out of position.

4. Mikal Baaqee, Virginia Tech. Baaqee looks too short for the position, but he's a whirling dervish who plays with rare fire. He has the strength to take on blockers and is fast enough to pursue from behind. His lack of height can cause problems in coverage.

OUTSIDE

1. Pat Thomas, N.C. State. Thomas has an ideal combination of size and speed. If a sweep is coming his way, he can take on the blockers. If the play is going the other way, he can catch up. He also has the ability to drop into coverage, where he operates comfortably in space.

2. Darryl Blackstock, Virginia. He was a sensation as a true freshman in 2002 and took the next step last year. Blackstock has the height and weight of some ends but still is athletic enough to play on the perimeter. He should be a future All-American.

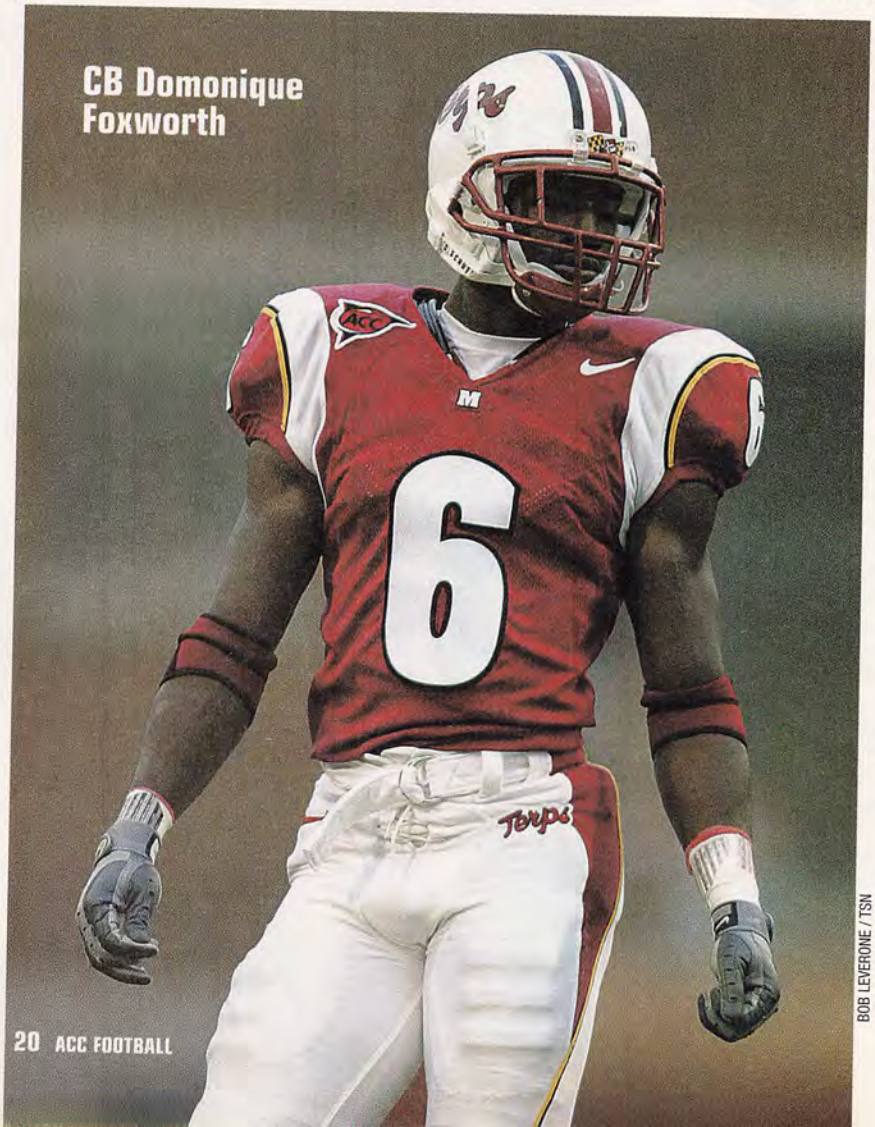
3. A.J. Nicholson, Florida State. He blossomed last year when he developed into a sideline-to-sideline playmaker. Nicholson has a nice combination of size and speed.

4. Shawne Merriman, Maryland. He's a big play waiting to happen. Merriman notched 8.5 sacks and 9.5 tackles for loss last season—and he was playing most of the year on a bum knee.

CORNERBACKS

1. Antrel Rolle, Miami. With Sean Taylor and Maurice Sikes gone, Rolle is the kingpin of the secondary. Few backpedal as quickly as Rolle, and he can explode forward after the ball is thrown to make a play. He also is big and physical enough to help in run coverage.

2. Justin Miller, Clemson. He might have been the nation's top freshman in 2002. Miller continued to make strides last year but didn't make as many big plays. He has good size, so he's rarely in a mismatch. If he takes a false step and gets behind his man, he has the speed to recover.



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3. Domonique Foxworth, Maryland. Foxworth is a rangy corner who covers a lot of ground. His experience allows him to take chances on occasion in hopes of making a big play. He is one of the top tacklers in the secondary and rarely takes a false first step.

4. Eric King, Wake Forest. King has amazing quickness and has the ability to switch from going forward to backward in a flash without losing a beat. His lack of size can leave him in mismatches, but he has a powerful build for a short guy. That allows him to be physical at the point of attack.

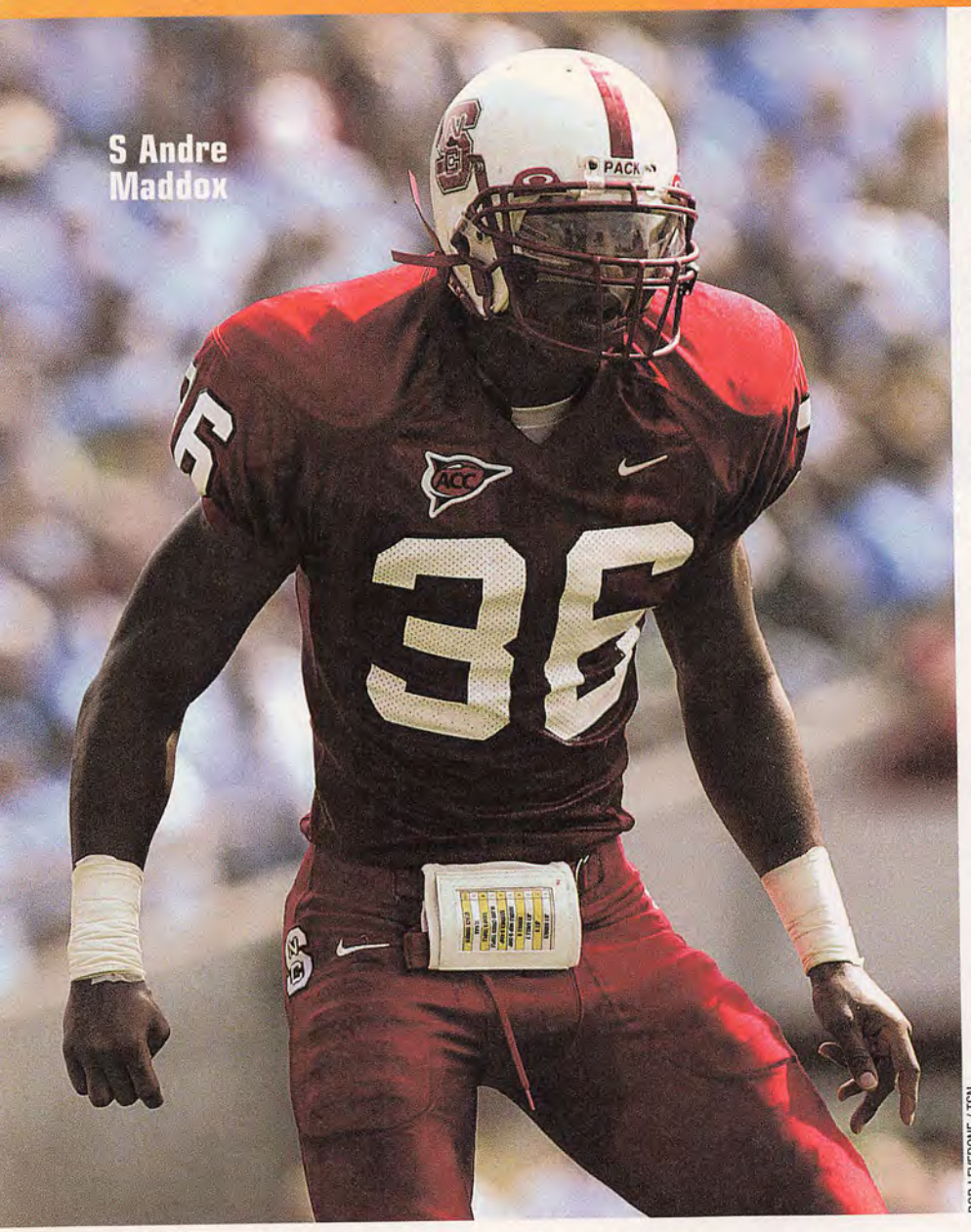
5. Jimmy Williams, Virginia Tech. The rangy Williams is moving from free safety, but don't expect his play to drop. Last year, he was one of the Hokies' top tacklers. He got to ballcarriers because he took good angles and played with his head. Williams also made strides in coverage.

SAFETIES

1. James Butler, Georgia Tech. Butler is an intimidating presence at free safety because of his impressive size. He has great coverage skills and the range to chase from sideline to sideline. Butler does a good job of keeping order in what will be one of the ACC's top secondaries.

2. Andre Maddox, N.C. State. Maddox is an asset not only because he's a big hitter but also because of his smarts. He rarely is caught out of position and takes good angles to the ball from his strong safety slot. He also is a good tackler.

3. Jamaal Fudge, Clemson. A compact force, Fudge is a prowler from his strong safety spot,



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always looming and looking to lay the lumber. But he guards against being overaggressive or being caught in a bad position. Over time, Fudge has markedly improved his coverage skills.

4. Jerome Carter, Florida State. He took the next step last year and appears primed for a big senior season from his strong safety slot. Carter has good size, which makes him effective in run support. He has done a good job of learning tendencies and fighting through traffic to find the ball.

KICKERS

1. Nick Novak, Maryland. He has been a star from the get-go. Novak has been a consistent force who hit 24-of-32 field goal attempts last year with an ACC-long of 54 yards. He also has ice in his veins; he has hit a few big kicks dating to his freshman year.

2. Jon Peattie, Miami. He might have been the top freshman kicker in the nation last year. Good thing, too, because an inconsistent offense needed the boost Peattie provided. He paced the Big East by hitting 22-of-28 field goal attempts, and his range extends beyond 50 yards.

3. Connor Hughes, Virginia. He took over as a true freshman in 2002 and blossomed last year. No one in the ACC topped Hughes' 92 percent success rate (23-for-25) on field goal attempts last year. And they weren't all chip shots; Hughes blasted one from 53 yards.

4. Xavier Beitia, Florida State. Yeah, Beitia is part of the wide-right legacy and struggled thereafter, but he regained his confidence last year. He nailed 19 of 25 field-goal attempts, and his range extends to close to 50 yards. He could win a game or two this fall.

PUNTERS

1. Ryan Plackemeier, Wake Forest. He was a major weapon for Wake, often turning over the field when the offense stalled. That kept the defense from having to guard a short field. Plackemeier has a strong leg; his punts averaged 45.6 yards last year.

2. Adam Podlesh, Maryland. Podlesh was one of the top freshman punters in the nation last year when he averaged 42.6 yards. He combines a strong leg with the ability to pooch punts inside the 20.

3. Jesse Stein, Florida State. He was a revelation as a freshman last year. What helped make him effective was his ability to kick the ball quickly. Stein also gets good hang time, which helps the coverage teams.

KICKOFF RETURNERS

1. Mike Imoh, Virginia Tech. After a while, teams tried to avoid kicking to Imoh, whose ability to cut quickly and not lose speed helped him average 30.5 yards on 18 returns. Imoh has good field vision that helps him find seams. He ran back one kickoff for a touchdown.

2. Devin Hester, Miami. The ultrafast Hester made a splash last season as a freshman when he ran back one kickoff for a score. He routinely provided the offense with good field position and he averaged 28.7 yards on returns.

3. Senterrio Landrum, Duke. He provides the Blue Devils' offense with a boost with his dynamic return skills. Landrum can wait for a play to develop, shooting through a hole when it appears.

PUNT RETURNERS

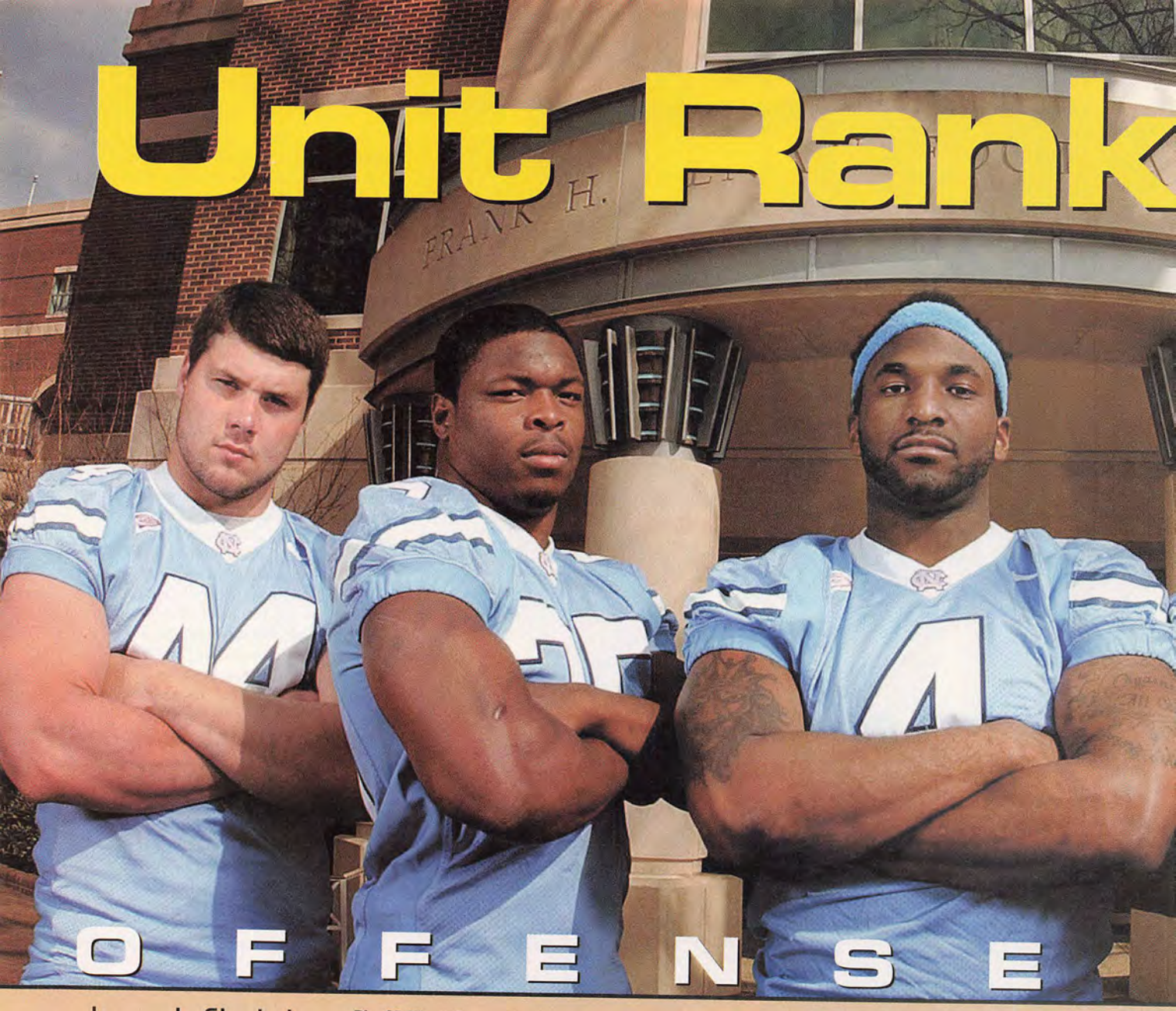
1. Steve Suter, Maryland. Suter didn't repeat the four touchdowns he scored on punt returns in 2002, but he ran one back last year. He is a little guy with quickness and is at his best when making people miss in the open field. Suter also is tough.

2. Tramain Hall, N.C. State. Hall provided the Wolfpack with instant offense with two returns for touchdowns. He has good vision, allowing plays to develop and then taking advantage. He doesn't lose speed when he changes direction.

3. Marques Hagans, Virginia. A quarterback by trade, Hagans is too valuable to keep on the sideline. He has incredible quickness and can stop and start in an instant. Once in the clear, he can use an array of one-on-one moves to confound defenders. **TSN**

E-mail associate editor Tom Dienhart at tdienhart@sportingnews.com.

Unit Rank



backfields

1. MIAMI

***QB Brock Berlin, FB Kyle Cobia, QB Derrick Crudup, RB Frank Gore, FB Quadtrine Hill, RB Andrew Johnson, RB Charlie Jones, RB Tyrone Moss, RB Bobby Washington, QB Kyle Wright.**

Is this the year the talented Gore stays healthy and shows his skills? If not, Moss is ready to take over. There's no better fullback duo in the nation than Hill-Cobia. All eyes are on Berlin. Should he fail, heralded redshirt freshman Wright could step in.

2. FLORIDA STATE

RB Lorenzo Booker, FB James Coleman, *FB B.J. Dean, RB Jamaal Edwards, *QB Chris Rix, QB Wyatt Sexton, RB Leon Washington.

Greg Jones will be missed, but it's time for Washington and Booker to emerge. Washington has proved to be an exciting return man. Each brings more speed to the spot. Rix looks to cap an up-and-down career after finishing 2003 on a high note.

3. WAKE FOREST

RB Micah Andrews, *RB Chris Barclay, RB Cornelius Birgs, RB D'Angelo Bryant, QB Ben Mauk, *QB Cory Randolph.

The entire stable of running backs returns, headed by 1,000-yard rusher Barclay. Birgs is another viable option. And keep an eye on Andrews, an exciting redshirt freshman. Randolph is an underrated dual-threat quarterback. Mauk is a former Ohio high school phenom who redshirted last year.

4. NORTH CAROLINA

QB Matt Baker, *QB Darian Durant, FB Madison Hedgecock, *RB Jacque Lewis, *RB Ronnie McGill, RB Chad Scott.

Durant never gets the credit he deserves as a passer. He also can make plays with his feet. McGill emerged as a redshirt freshman to complement the versatile Lewis. Hedgecock is back at fullback after a stint at defensive end last year.

5. GEORGIA TECH

***QB Reggie Ball, QB Patrick Carter, *RB P.J. Daniels, *FB Jimmy Dixon, FB Ajenavi Eziemefe, RB Michael Sampson, RB Chris Woods.**

Ball lacks prototype quarterback size, but he was one of the nation's top true freshmen last year. Daniels is a former walk-on who has two of the top three rushing games in Tech annals. Dixon is a highly-regarded lead escort.

6. VIRGINIA TECH

RB George Bell, RB/FB Cedric Humes, RB Mike Imoh, FB John Kinzer, *QB Bryan Randall, QB Marcus Vick.

7. CLEMSON

***RB Duane Coleman, FB Clifford Harrell, FB Steven Jackson, RB Yusef Kelly, QB Will Proctor, *QB Charlie Whitehurst.**

8. N.C. STATE

RB Josh Brown, QB Jay Davis, RB Reggie Davis, *RB T.A. McLendon, QB Chris Moore, FB Chance Moyer, QB Marcus Stone.

*Denotes returning starter

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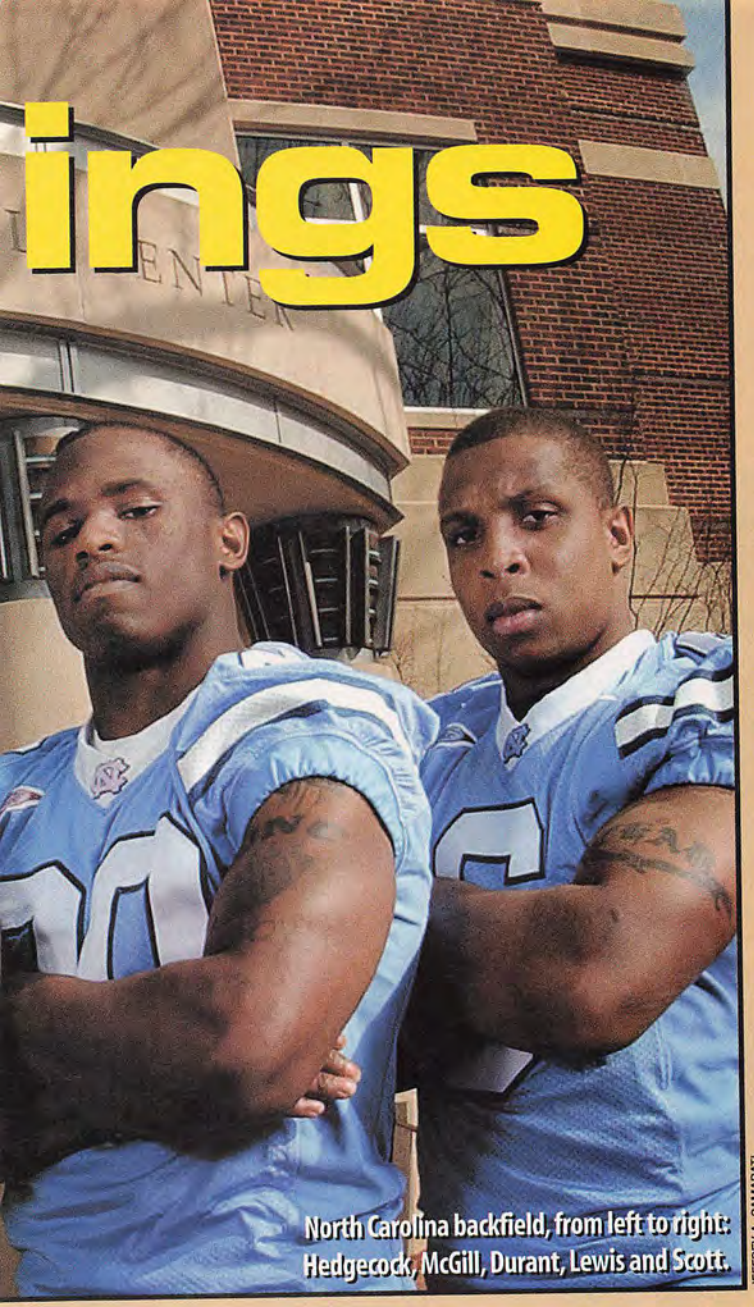


North Carolina backfield, from left to right: Hedgecock, McGill, Durant, Lewis and Scott.

JEFFREY A. CAMARATI

9. VIRGINIA
QB Marques Hagans, RB Michael Johnson, *RB Wali Lundy, QB Anthony Martinez, QB Kevin McCabe, QB Christian Olsen, RB Alvin Pearman, FB Jason Snelling.

10. MARYLAND
*RB Josh Allen, RB Lance Bell, FB Ricardo Dickerson, QB Sam Hollenbach, RB J.P. Humber, RB Sammy Maldonado, RB Mario Merrills, QB Ryan Mitch, FB Maurice Smith, QB Joel Statham.

11. DUKE
RB Segun Akande, QB Chris Dapolito, RB Cedric Dargan, FB Mike Dowling, QB Curt Dukes, RB Aaron Fryer, *QB Mike Schneider.

wide receivers

1. MIAMI
TE Kevin Everett, WR Cedric Hill, WR Darnell Jenkins, WR Akieem Jolla, WR Khalil Jones, WR Lance Leggett, *WR Ryan Moore, WR Sinorice Moss, TE Greg Olsen, WR Roscoe Parrish.

Moore stepped up last year; now it's time for what has been an inconsistent but talented group to emerge. Some true freshmen might need to inject big-play skills. Olsen is a redshirt freshman who could be Miami's next great tight end.

2. NORTH CAROLINA
WR Adarius Bowman, TE Scott Brumett, TE Jon Hamlett, WR Jesse Holley, WR Mike Mason, *WR Derrele Mitchell, *WR Jarwarski Pollock.

Pollock set a school record with 71 receptions last year. Mason caught 22 passes. Working with veteran quarterback Darian Durant will make this group even more effective.

3. FLORIDA STATE
TE Donnie Carter, WR Chris Davis, WR DeCody Fagg, TE Matt Henshaw, WR Willie Reid, WR Dominic Robinson, WR Lorne Sam, WR Chauncey Stovall, *WR Craphonso Thorpe.

P.K. Sam opted to turn pro early, but there are plenty of inviting targets on the roster. Thorpe will be the leader. Stovall is a big target. Reid is a former running back who continues to make strides. Robinson arrived as a touted defensive back but now inflicts damage to them.

4. N.C. STATE
WR Lamart Barrett, *WR Brian Clark, *WR Tramain Hall, WR Sterling Hicks, WR Richard Washington, *TE T.J. Williams.

Hall is a speedy sort who also can play slotback. Hicks started in 2002 but missed last year with a medical hardship. Working with a new quarterback could slow this group early.

5. WAKE FOREST
*WR Jason Anderson, WR Chris Davis, *WR Willie Idlette, WR Kevin Marion, TE R.D. Montgomery, WR Nate Morton.

Idlette was a pleasant surprise as a wideout and return man last year as a redshirt freshman. Anderson has been one of the Deacons' best players since he stepped on campus because of his big-play skills.

6. GEORGIA TECH
*WR Nate Curry, WR Calvin Johnson, WR Mark Logan, WR Xavier McGuire, WR Levon Thomas, TE Darius Williams.

7. VIRGINIA
*WR Ottowa Anderson, TE Patrick Estes, WR Michael McGrew, *TE Heath Miller, WR Fontel Mines, TE Jon Stupar, WR Deyon Williams.

8. CLEMSON
WR Curtis Baham, WR Michael Collins, WR Airese Currie, WR Kelvin Grant, TE Ben Hall, WR Gene Pate, WR Chansi Stuckey, TE Bobby Williamson.

9. DUKE
WR Ronnie Elliott, *WR Lance Johnson, *WR Senterrio Landrum, TE Ben Patrick, TE Calen Powell, *TE Andy Roland.

10. MARYLAND
TE Rob Abiamiri, TE Vernon Davis, WR Derrick Fenner, WR Dan Melendez, TE Derek Miller, WR Rich Parson, *WR Steve Suter, WR Drew Weatherly.

11. VIRGINIA TECH
WR Chris Clifton, WR David Clowney, WR Jeremy Gilchrist, WR Justin Hamilton, WR Josh Hyman, TE Jeff King, WR Josh Morgan, WR Eddie Royal.

lines

1. FLORIDA STATE
*T Alex Barron, G Eric Broe, *C David Castillo, G Ron Lunford, *G Bobby Meeks, *G Matt Meinrod, *T Ray Willis.

Every starter is back for what will be one of the country's top units. Barron and Willis form one of the best tackle duos in the nation. Each brings uncommon athletic ability to the position. Meinrod and Meeks pack a big punch inside. Castillo is a star center.

2. MIAMI
T Andrew Bain, T Rashad Butler, *G Chris Myers, G Alex Pou, *C Joel Rodriguez, G Tony Tella, *T Eric Winston.

Winston is a future pro who can dominate. Myers and Rodriguez are steady forces on the interior. Butler lacks great size, but he's a dominating run blocker. Tella's potential has coaches excited for a group that never gets enough credit.

3. VIRGINIA
G/T Brian Barthelmes, *G Elton Brown, *T Brad Butler, *G Ian-Yates Cunningham, *T D'Brickashaw Ferguson, *C Zac Yarbrough.

This is a good group that needs to improve its run blocking. Brown won the Jacob's Trophy last year, as the ACC's top blocker. Ferguson has been a starter since he walked on campus in 2002.

4. N.C. STATE
T Chris Colmer, *G Ricky Fowler, *G Leroy Harris, *G/T John McKeon, *T Derek Morris, T James Newby, *C Jed Paulsen.

This will be a solid unit that deserves more credit than it receives. The unit could end up

being the ACC's best, especially if Colmer is better after missing 2003 because of an arm ailment. Harris is a rising star and a future pro.

5. VIRGINIA TECH

C Tripp Carroll, *T Jon Dunn, G Brandon Gore, *T Jimmy Martin., G James Miller, *C/G Will Montgomery.

Jake Grove and Jacob Gibson will be missed. Montgomery is a former walk-on who has developed. Few teams will have a more imposing tackle duo than Dunn and Martin.

6. MARYLAND

G Russell Bonham, T Scott Burley, *G C.J. Brooks, T Brock Choate, G Andrew Crummey, *T Stephon Heyer, T Lou Lombardo, *C Kyle Schmitt, T Jaimie Thomas, G Donnie Woods.

7. CLEMSON

G Nathan Bennett, T Marion Dukes, C Dustin Fry, T Roman Fry, *G Cedric Johnson, T Brandon Pilgrim, *C Tommy Sharpe.

8. GEORGIA TECH

***G Brad Honeycutt, T Kenton Johnson, G Leon Robinson, *C/G Andy Tidwell-Neal, *T Kyle Wallace.**

9. WAKE FOREST

T Greg Adkins, T Wesley Bryant, *G Craig Jones, *C Blake Lingruen, G Joe Salsich, *T Steve Vallos.

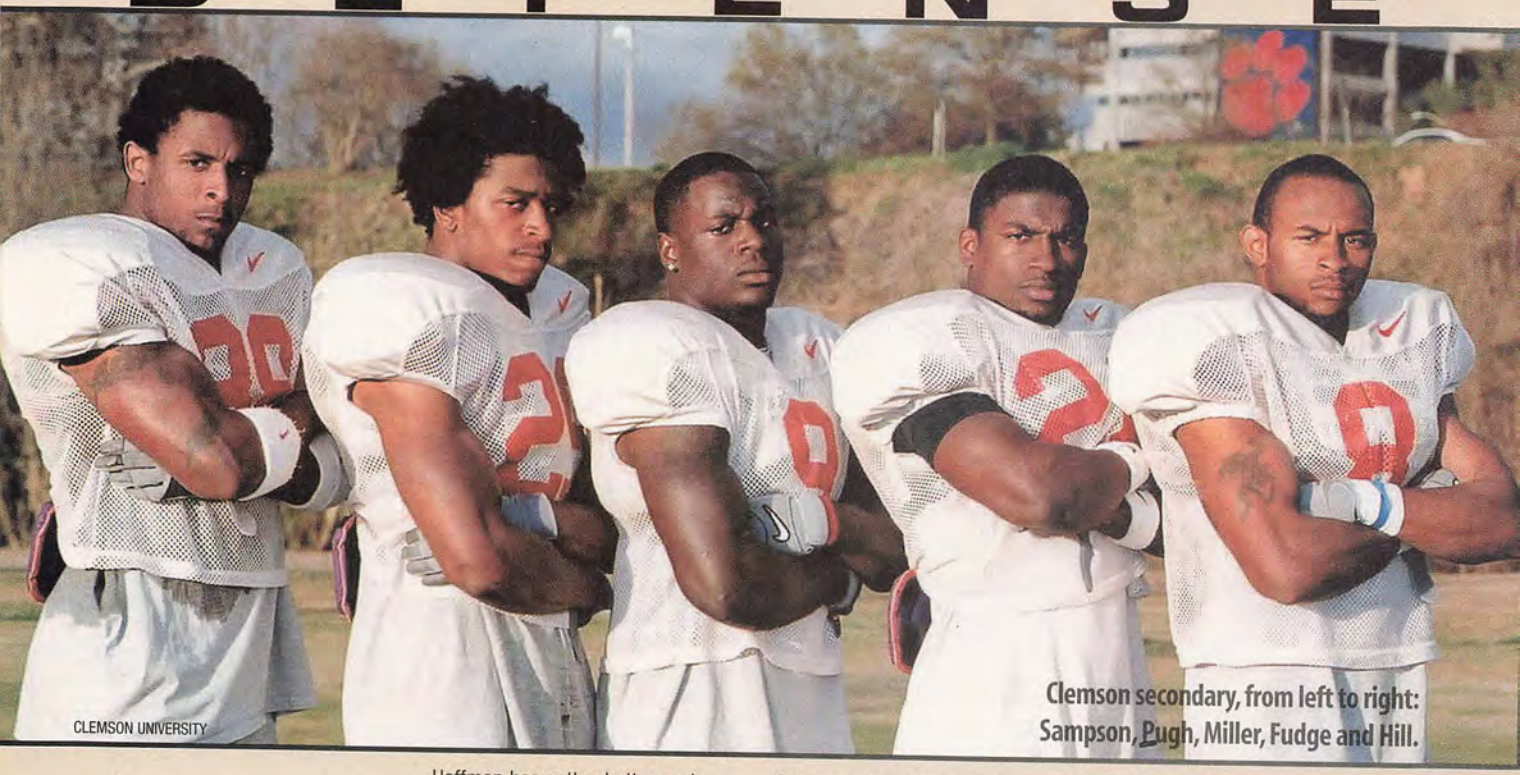
10. NORTH CAROLINA

G Steven Bell, *C Jason Brown, *T Willie McNeill, G Kyle Ralph, *T Skip Seagraves.

11. DUKE

G Lavdrim Bauta, G Chris Best, C Tyler Krieg, *T Christian Mitchell, C Dan Mooney, T Jim Moravchik.

DEFENSE



CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

Clemson secondary, from left to right: Sampson, Pugh, Miller, Fudge and Hill.

lines

1. MIAMI

***E Baraka Atkins, T Kareem Brown, *E Thomas Carroll, *T Orien Harris, E Bryan Pata, T Santonio Thomas.**

Harris is a quick, disruptive force who looks to pick up where Vince Wilfork left off. Atkins and Carroll have the size and speed to dominate off the edge. Thomas is ready to assume a bigger role.

2. VIRGINIA

***E Chris Canty, *NT Andrew Hoffman, NT Melvin Massey, E Kwakou Robinson, *E Brennan Schmidt.**

Canty thought about going pro. He's a speciman who makes plays. Schmidt isn't a prototypical end, but he makes plays, too. Hoffman has gotten better each season. Robinson is a key guy off the bench.

3. N.C. STATE

T Dwayne Herndon, E Manny Lawson, *T John McCargo, *E Renaldo Moses, T DeMario Pressley, *E Mario Williams.

McCargo and Herndon are space eaters, but depth must be developed behind them. Williams showed he was worth the hype last year as a freshman. Pressley arrives as one of the nation's most touted high school players.

4. VIRGINIA TECH

T Barry Booker, E Noland Burchette, E Jim Davis, *T Jonathan Lewis, *T Kevin Lewis, T Jason Lallis, T Carlton Powell, T Kory Robertson, T Tim Sandidge, E Darryl Tapp.

Davis is back after missing 2003 because of a torn chest muscle. Tapp is poised to break out. The Lewis brothers are disruptive forces on the interior. Depth is decent, which will allow the Hokies to keep players fresh.

5. GEORGIA TECH

T Joe Anoai, *E Eric Henderson, T LeShawn Newberry, *E Travis Parker, *T Mansfield Wrotto.

Henderson emerged as one of the ACC's best ends last season. Parker moves to end, where his playmaking skills can be exploited. Wrotto is a brute who ties up blockers. Coaches are excited about a cache of newcomers.

6. FLORIDA STATE

NG Brodrick Bunkley, *E Chauncey Davis, T/E Charles Howard, *T Travis Johnson, E Eric Moore, E Kamerion Wimbley.

7. MARYLAND

T Rob Armstrong, T Conrad Bolston, T Justin Duffie, *E Kevin Eli, T Dennis Marsh, T Dre Moore, E Omarr Savage, E Henry Scott.

8. WAKE FOREST

E Bryan Andrews, E John Finklea, T Jeromy Jones, *E Jerome Nichols, *T Goryal Scales, T Cori Stukes, *E Jyles Tucker.

9. CLEMSON

E Gaines Adams, T Eric Coleman, E Maurice Fountain, T Cory Groover, E Vontrell Jamison, T Trey Tate.

10. DUKE

***E Phillip Alexander, T Ben Benion, T Casey Camero,**

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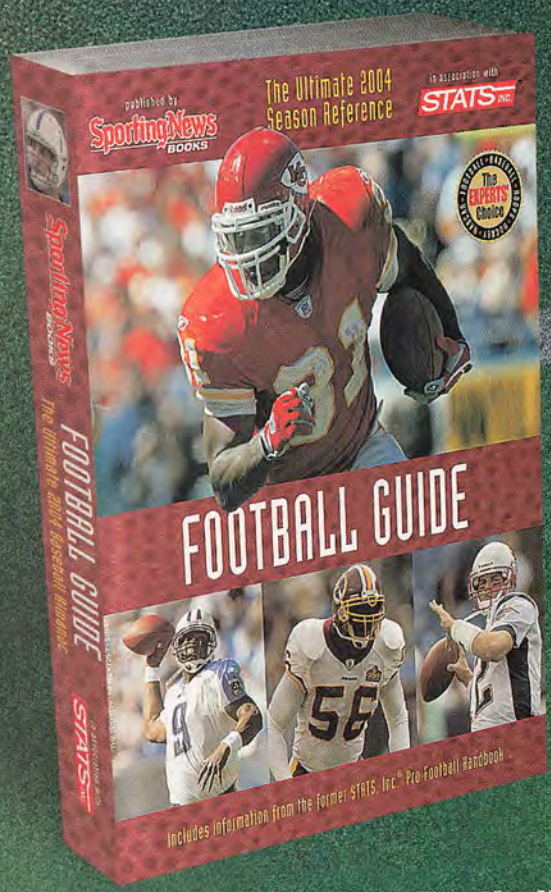

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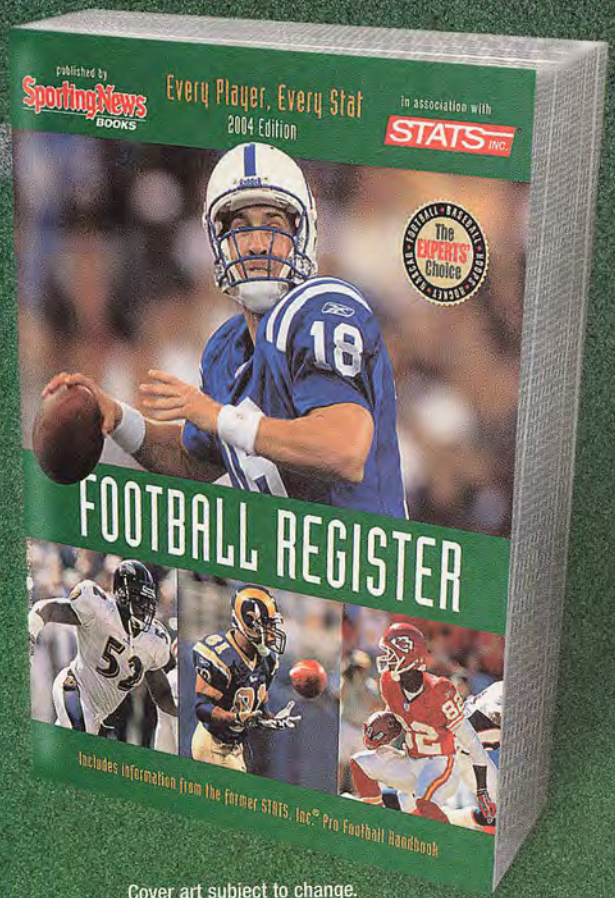

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11. NORTH CAROLINA

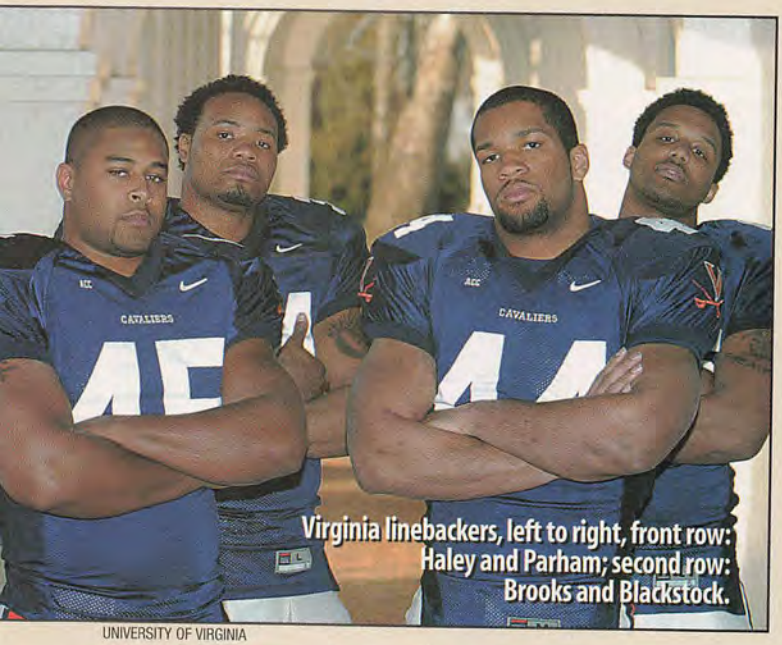
E Alden Blizzard, *E Tommy Davis, E Terry Hunter, E Khalif Mitchell, *T Chase Page, T Isaiah Thomas.

linebackers

1. VIRGINIA

ILB Rich Bedesem, *OLB Darryl Blackstock, *ILB Ahmad Brooks, OLB Dennis Haley, *ILB Kai Parham, OLB Vince Redd, ILB Bryan White.

Brooks is one of the nation's best. Coaches like to rush him off the edge on passing downs. Blackstock is a steady force and has a lot of experience. Parham couldn't be forced from the line-up after getting his chance early last year.



Virginia linebackers, left to right, front row: Haley and Parham; second row: Brooks and Blackstock.

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

2. VIRGINIA TECH

ILB Xavier Adibi, *ILB Mikal Baaqee, ILB Vince Hall, *OLB Brandon Manning, OLB Aaron Rouse, ILB Blake Warren.

Adibi and Hall are redshirt freshmen who have coaches excited. Baaqee and Manning are proven veterans with noses for the ball. Each had more than 100 tackles last year. Rouse is coming on fast and looks like a player.

3. N.C. STATE

*OLB Freddie Aughtry-Linsday, *MLB Oliver Hoyte, *OLB Pat Thomas.

These guys showed a knack for making big plays last season. Aughtry-Lindsay is strong against the run. Thomas is good in pursuit and coverage. Hoyte is tough and he always seems to be around the ball.

4. MIAMI

MLB Jon Beason, OLB James Bryant, OLB Tavares Gooden, OLB Roger McIntosh, MLB Leon Williams, OLB Willie Williams.

All three starters from last year are gone, but don't weep for the Canes. McIntosh is ready to become a star. Leon Williams gets first crack at Jonathan Vilma's middle spot. Willie Williams is one of the nation's most hyped incoming players, but off-field issues might sideline him.

5. MARYLAND

OLB David Holloway, OLB William Kershaw, *ILB D'Qwell Jackson, OLB Wesley Jefferson, OLB Eric Lenz, *OLB Shawne Merriman, OLB Jeris Smith.

Jackson likely will be the next great Terrapins linebacker. He's quick and has smarts. Merriman showed a knack for making plays last year coming off the edge. Jefferson appears ready to step up.

6. FLORIDA STATE

OLB Marcello Church, MLB Buster Davis, MLB Sam McGrew, OLB A.J. Nicholson, OLB Ray Piquion, OLB Ernie Sims.

7. CLEMSON

*MLB LeRoy Hill, OLB Lionel Richardson, OLB Anthony Waters, OLB Nick Watkins.

8. GEORGIA TECH

OLB Tabugbo Anyansi, LB Travis Chambers, OLB KaMichael Hall, LB Gary Guyton, MLB Nick Moore, OLB Chris Reis, *MLB Gerris Wilkinson.

9. NORTH CAROLINA

*LB Melik Brown, *LB Larry Edwards, MLB Doug Justice, OLB Jeff Longhany, MLB Fred Sparkman, LB Victor Worsley.

10. DUKE

*MLB Giuseppe Aguanno, MLB Codey Lowe, *OLB Brendan Dewan, OLB Malcolm Ruff, OLB DeAndre White, OLB Alex Williams.

11. WAKE FOREST

*OLB Caron Bracy, MLB Pierre Easley, OLB Jason Pratt, MLB Napoleon Sykes, *OLB Brad White.

secondaries

1. CLEMSON

*SS Jamaal Fudge, *CB Tye Hill, *CB Justin Miller, *FS Travis Pugh, S Eric Sampson.

Miller and Hill have few peers when it comes to cornerback duos. Miller brings needed swagger to the field. Pugh is a tackling machine who knows how to play the game. Fudge lacks ideal size but has been a key player.

2. GEORGIA TECH

*FS James Butler, CB Dennis Davis, *CB Reuben Houston, *SS Dawan Landry, CB Kenny Scott.

Butler is one of the nation's best free safeties. He's a ballhawk who can tackle. Landry is a former quarterback who has turned heads. Scott has a chance to be a special talent. Davis is poised for a breakout season.

3. MIAMI

CB Tavarous Bain, CB Tanard Davis, CB Kelly Jennings, FS Brandon Meriweather, *CB Antrel Rolle, SS Greg Threat.

No Sean Taylor, no Maurice Sikes, no problem. Rolle is the nation's top cornerback. Jennings will get tested often opposite Rolle. Threat has the tools to be a great player. Meriweather can cover a lot of ground.

4. N.C. STATE

CB A.J. Davis, CB Dovonte Edwards, *FS Troy Graham, CB/FS Marcus Hudson, *SS Andre Maddox, *CB Lamont Reid.

All four starters are back for a unit that suffered growing pains last year. They figure to be better. Maddox is the best of the bunch. Hudson is back after missing 2003 to focus on the books. Graham is a former wideout.

5. FLORIDA STATE

*SS Jerome Carter, CB Antonio Cromartie, SS Kyler Hall, *CB Bryant McFadden, *CB Leroy Smith, *FS B.J. Ward, FS Pat Watkins.

Cornerbacks Stanford Samuels and Rufus Brown are gone, but it's not like they were Deion Sanders and Terrell Buckley. Florida State will be strong at safety because Ward, Hall and Carter all have plenty of experience. A good pass rush will be needed to help the corners.

6. WAKE FOREST

*FS Warren Braxton, FS Josh Gattis, SS Patrick Ghee, *CB Eric King, *CB Marcus McGruder, CB Riley Swanson.

7. MARYLAND

FS Raymond Custis, *CB Domonique Foxworth, CB Rueben Haigler, SS Chris Kelley, CB Gerrick McPhearson, FS Richard Taylor, CB Josh Wilson, SS Marcus Wimbush.

8. VIRGINIA

S Robbie Catterton, S Lance Evans, *CB Tony Franklin, CB Marcus Hamilton, *S Jermaine Hardy.

9. VIRGINIA TECH

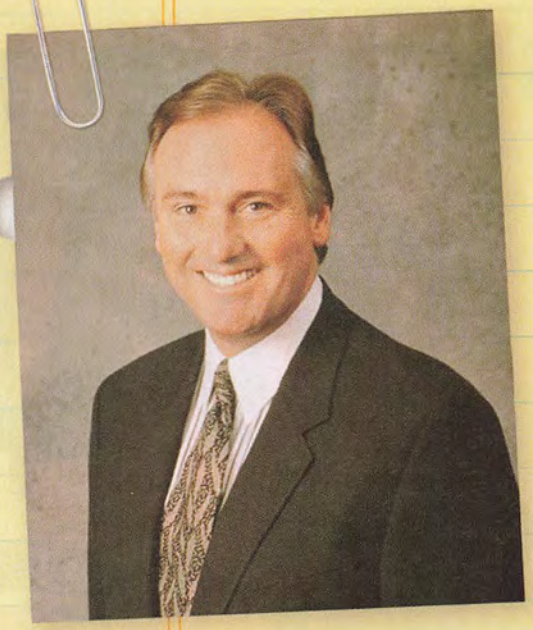
FS Vincent Fuller, CB Eric Green, S James Griffin, CB Roland Minor, S Cary Wade, *CB Jimmy Williams.

10. DUKE

S Jeramy Edwards, *FS Alex Green, *S Brian Greene, *CB Kenneth Stanford. CB John Talley, S Mark Thompson, S C.J. Woodward.

11. NORTH CAROLINA

SS Mahlon Carey, *CB Lionell Green, CB Cedric Holt, SS Gerald Sensabaugh, FS D.J. Walker, CB Jacoby Watkins.



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Position: Sporting News Radio Host
Experience: CBS Sports Studio Host & Play-by-Play Announcer
Height: 6'3" (give or take)
Weight: Doesn't matter
Born: February 27, 1956

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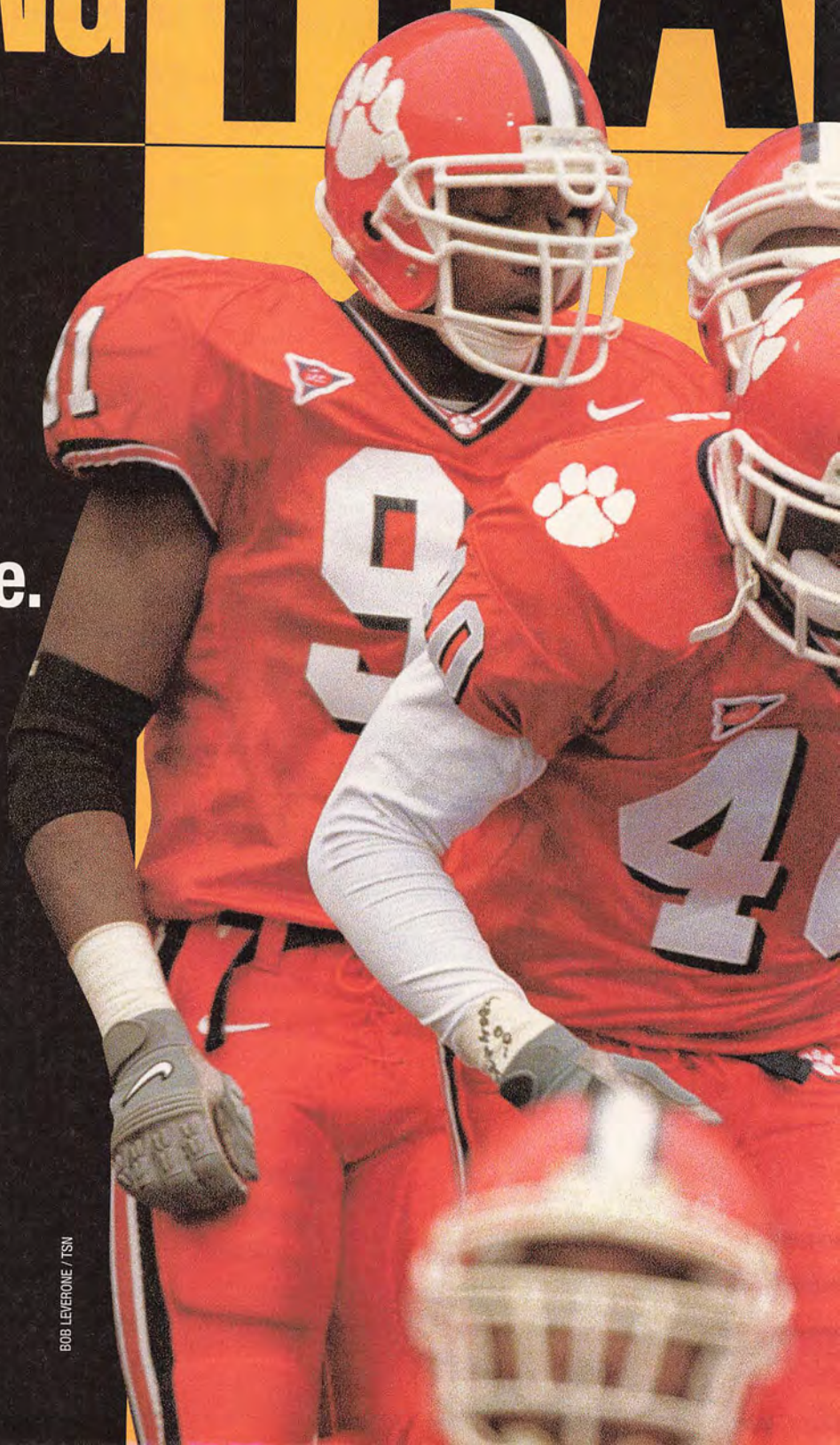
RANKING the TRA

EVERY SCHOOL HAS ONE,

and some more than one. From roses to rocks to rams and everything in between, our list of ACC favorites.

By Jon Solomon



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

DITIONS

TRADITIONS

Meaningful traditions are hard to come by in the Atlantic Coast Conference, which suffers from an inferiority complex in football. Just look at the geography to understand why.

Football rules in the South. And by the South we don't mean Tobacco Road, where four of the ACC schools reside in what is really basketball heaven.

But drive a little farther south, and there are Clemson and Florida State. Both are passionate about football and could be SEC schools, given their supporters and fanatical interest. Georgia Tech ranks up there, too, because of its long history, which even includes the namesake of the Heisman Trophy.

So was it any surprise that Clemson, Florida State and Georgia Tech were the loudest proponents for expanding the ACC? You can only run down a hill, plant a flaming spear and ride the Rambling Wreck for so long.

More and more, ACC football teams are starting new traditions, such as parading through gatherings of fans to enter the stadium. But anything traditional needs time to catch on.

As Miami, Virginia Tech and Boston College prepare to join the ACC, here is what the new conference will look, sound, taste and feel like. From Boston to Miami, some quirky and little-known ACC traditions—as well as a couple of nationally acclaimed spine-tinglers—are played out each fall.

THE COUNTDOWN BEGINS:

12. The Rose Bowl in Durham

These days, the most visible tradition at Duke is losing and a lack of interest.

Students camp in tents for weeks in Krzyzewskiville to get basketball tickets. But a football spectator can arrive late to find good parking and a comfortable seat, except when N.C. State and North Carolina fans invade the stadium.

Given such lack of fervor, it's hard to believe that Wallace Wade Stadium, formerly Duke Stadium, once played host to a Rose Bowl—"the granddaddy of them all." It happened on January 1, 1942, less than a month after the United States had been attacked by Japan at Pearl Harbor. Wartime restrictions forbidding the gathering of large crowds on the West Coast after the attack prevented the Rose Bowl, a game featuring Duke and Oregon State, from being played at its normal site in Pasadena, Calif. Initially, the game was going to be canceled.

But Duke's offer to host the game was accepted, and the Blue Devils staff had only 18 days to prepare for an extravagant event. Many football players were disappointed about losing their trip to California and the prospect of missing Christmas while preparing for an on-campus game in Durham.

Borrowed bleachers from North Carolina and N.C. State increased the Duke Stadium capacity from 35,000 to 55,000. Many East Coast sportswriters flooded to Durham for their first Rose Bowl, but only one writer is believed to have made the long journey from southern California.

Duke, undefeated and heavily favored, was upset by the Beavers, 20-16, on a cold, rainy day. Blue Devils coach Wallace Wade later said he spent too little time preparing the team because of his duties as host.

The Blue Devils have played in only six postseason games since that Rose Bowl, none in the past nine years. A reminder of that historic game can be found at the entrance to the stadium—rose bushes from the Tournament of Roses Committee that flank the bust of Wallace Wade.

11. N.C. State's textile history

It's just a passing reference now, a footnote in the game notes. Last year, no one even knew which school possessed the trophy that is awarded to the winning team.

But once upon a time, the Textile Bowl was a big deal. In 1981, N.C. State and Clemson joined with textile industry officials from North Carolina and South Carolina to use the annual football game as a reminder of how important textile mills were to each state's economy.

N.C. State and Clemson both had widely recognized textile schools offering engineering degrees, so it was a natural to promote that as a tradition. Not surprisingly, the idea coincided with a period when both teams were successful. Clemson won the national championship in 1981; N.C. State had just finished a stretch that produced several ACC titles and national rankings.

The textile associations in each state funded scholarships, members of the media voted on the most valuable players from each team and a large trophy went to the winning school.

In recent years, though, the textile industry that once ruled employment in the Carolinas has changed dramatically. South Carolina stopped funding scholarships, creating the unusual occurrence that the media voted for an MVP only from N.C. State one year. And it didn't help that both schools suffered a downturn in football fortunes in the late 1990s and are only now starting to re-emerge.

Without any more prominent traditions, N.C. State has to hang its hat on this dying one. Years from now, it's possible no one will even remember the Textile Bowl—a game that time has passed.

10. Tailgating on Shea Field

Nothing says Boston College football like tailgating at Shea Field, the school's baseball diamond with a gorgeous view of the Chestnut Hill Reservoir and downtown Boston.

Tailgating on Shea Field has become so big that parking spaces are determined by donor level—moreso even than priority seating inside Alumni Stadium. Eagles fans are notorious for arriving late to games, sometimes well into the second quarter, because they are having too much fun tailgating.

Shea Field was named for fallen World War II Naval Lt. Commander John Shea, a football player in 1916 and '17. It opens to pedestrian traffic 30 minutes after the parking areas open, and all pedestrians must have a game ticket to enter.

The food eaten there varies. Some choose cold-cut meats; others bring grills for burgers and hot dogs. Alcohol, naturally, is standard fare. The Boston College student newspaper once wrote that for many, "the game is best enjoyed sitting in a lawn chair with a Scotch and soda, a teriyaki chicken sandwich, with the game on the radio in the background."

This tradition doesn't help the Boston College baseball team, which often is forced to start its season on the road so that the Shea Field turf can regroup from the cold winter and tailgating wear and tear.

9. The Virginia Tech what?

Get ready to scratch your heads, ACC fans. One of the most confusing mascots in the country is coming to a football stadium near you.

Meet the Virginia Tech "Hokie," which is officially described by the school as "a loyal Virginia Tech fan." The mascot is the HokieBird, whose appearance, apparently, evolved from a turkey.

The name was created in 1896 when Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College changed its name to Virginia Polytechnic Institute. The name change made it necessary to write a new cheer for the school, so the students held a contest.

Senior O.M. Stull won first prize for his "Hokie" yell, which is still used today. Stull later was asked if the word had any special meaning. His response: Hokie was simply a product of his imagination and was used to draw attention to his yell.

Stull's famous "Old Hokie" Cheer:

Hokie, Hokie, Hokie, Hi!
Tech, Tech, VPI
Sol-a-rex, Sol-a-rah
Poly Tech Vir-gin-ia
Ray rah VPI!
Team! Team! Team!

Thus, a team name. ACC nicknames have come from demons (Blue Devils, Demon Deacons), harmful animals/insects (Wolfpack, Tigers, Yellow Jackets), natural disasters (Hurricanes) and now—a Hokie.

8. Testudo's lucky nose

If Maryland students or fans want some good luck, all they have to do is rub the nose of a bronze turtle called Testudo, which is the Terrapins' mascot.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

The original Testudo statue sits at the entrance to McKeldin Library, where it has resided since 1965. Testudo's nose is shiny from so many years of rubbing from students hoping for everything from Maryland victories and help on final exams to good luck in relationships.

That bronzed beast was a graduation gift from the Class of 1933. It weighed only 300 pounds and was stolen regularly by students from rival schools. In 1951, after a brief stay in a storage closet, Testudo became theft-proof with the addition of 700 pounds of concrete stuffing and iron rods that anchored it to a pedestal outside Byrd Stadium. Maryland won a national football championship in 1953. The Testudo statue was moved 12 years later to the library entrance, where it remains today.

But good luck sometimes requires time and patience. To help the football team in its pursuit of victories, a reproduction of the original Testudo statue was placed in 1992 near the Terps' locker room entrance at Byrd Stadium. Players have been rubbing its nose without fail since the first year of Mark Duffner's five-year coaching reign. Testudo Jr. was not very lucky for Duffner or successor Ron Vanderlinden, whose teams finished a combined 35-64 from 1992-2000.

But Testudo has been a charm for coach Ralph Friedgen. His teams have posted a 31-8 record since 2001 with one ACC championship.

7. Remembering *Brian's Song*

Thirty-four years have passed since Brian Piccolo died at age 26 of cancer. Piccolo's friendship with Chicago Bears teammate Gale Sayers later was portrayed in the critically acclaimed movie *Brian's Song*.

Wake Forest is where Piccolo played college football, and the Winston-Salem community never forgets. Each fall, Wake Forest stages the Brian Piccolo Cancer Fund Drive. Entering the 2003 season, it had raised almost $600,000 since its inception in 1980.

Over the past six years, as part of the fund-raising effort, Wake Forest football players have competed against Pi Kappa Alpha members in a series of weightlifting and strength contests. Also each fall, many Wake Forest students gather for the annual showing of *Brian's Song* on campus.

Piccolo led the nation in rushing (1,044 yards) and points scored (111) in 1964. He set six ACC records and nine school marks and was named the ACC's player of the year and an All-American.

But it was Piccolo's dignity while dying so young that most people remember. The ACC recognizes him with the Brian Piccolo Award, which honors the conference's most courageous football player each season.

6. North Carolina rams into a mascot

Most fans are well aware North Carolina is called the Tar Heels because it plays in the Tar Heel State. But how many can explain why the school has a ram as its official mascot? This bit of football oddity makes for an interesting story.

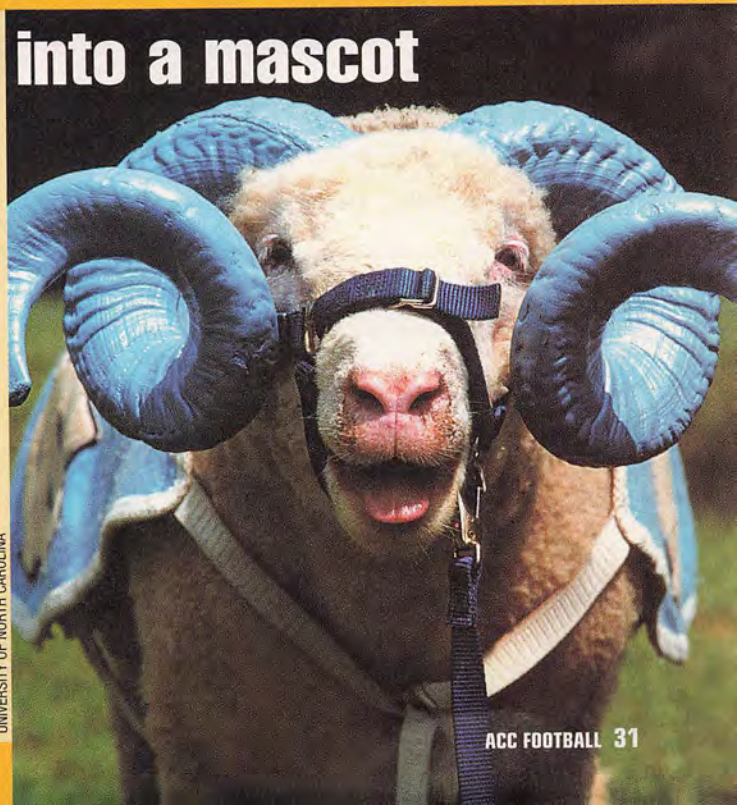
Vic Huggins, North Carolina's head cheerleader in 1924, is credited with the mascot idea. School spirit was at a high then, but something was missing. Huggins realized the Tar Heels needed a symbol, something to rival Georgia's bulldog and N.C. State's wolf, and began his one-man campaign to find one.

Two years earlier, a bruising fullback named Jack Merritt had been the star of a North Carolina team that finished 9-1. Merritt was nicknamed "the battering ram" for the way he plowed into the line, so Huggins linked North Carolina's mascot to one of its most popular players.

Athletic department business manager Charlie Woollen supplied $25 to purchase the first mascot, a live ram. Rameses the First was shipped from Texas and arrived just in time to be introduced at an Emerson Field pep rally before a game against Virginia Military Institute.

North Carolina was an underdog to VMI, but the teams played to a scoreless tie for three quarters. Late in the fourth, North Carolina's Bunn Hackney was asked to drop-kick a field goal. He stopped to rub Rameses' head for good luck before taking the field, and then delivered a 30-yard kick for a memorable 3-0 Tar Heels victory.

A mascot was born.



UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

5. 'Auld Lang Syne' without Dick Clark

No, it's not New Year's Eve every time Virginia scores in a football game. It only sounds that way because of "The Good Old Song," the school's unofficial alma mater sung to the tune of "Auld Lang Syne."

That good old song of
Wah-hoo-wah
We'll sing it o'er and o'er
It cheers our hearts and
warms our blood
To hear them shout and roar.
We come from Old Virginia,
Where all is bright and gay.
Let's all join hands and give a yell
For the dear old UVa
Wah-hoo-wah,
Wah-hoo-wah.
Uni-v, Virginia,
Hoo-rah-ray,
Hoo-rah-ray,
Ray! Ray! U-V-a

The song was written in 1893 and the words are credited to Edward H. Craighill Jr., who downplayed his involvement saying that several students helped write the lyrics to the first stanza as a welcome home for the football team after victories. The cheer "Wah-hoo-wah" was popular at the time and might have come from Dartmouth, which once was known as the Indians.

The song, played after every Virginia score and at the end of each game, creates the feel of a Times Square celebration—minus a couple hundred thousand revelers and confetti, of course. Virginia fans stand up, lock arms and sway as they sing.

The song sparked controversy in Charlottesville a few years ago when some students chanted "not gay" during the lyrics "where all is bright and gay." Virginia's student council created a "Good Old Song" Committee to raise awareness about negative effects of the "not gay" chant.

"Our fight song is one of the only places that we can come together completely united as Wahoos," the student council wrote in 2001. "Regardless of one's views on homosexuality, a fight song is not the appropriate forum in which to express them."

The controversy has subsided. Thomas Jefferson's school is back to singing and swaying with class.

4. Smoky entrance in Miami

ACC teams will see a familiar tradition when they travel to Miami beginning this season. The Hurricanes charge onto the field before every game at the Orange Bowl through an anticipation-heightening cloud of smoke.

Many schools now use similar introductions, but Miami claims it started the fad in the late 1950s. Hurricanes transportation director Bob Nalette is credited with the idea as a gimmick to increase fan interest. Nalette used fire extinguishers to produce the smoke.

In his spare time, Nalette even welded the pipe that still blows smoke from the top of the tunnel the Hurricanes use to enter the field. The original setup featured flashing lights, two large hurricane flags and a tape demonstrating the fury of a hurricane blasting over the loudspeaker.

The flags and lights are gone, but the smoke and soundtrack remain. The 50-year-old idea has spawned numerous duplicates around the country. But Miami fans will tell you their entrance is the best. And this year they get to show it off to the ACC.

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

3. Flaming spears, Osceola and Renegade, tomahawk chops

One of college football's most spectacular game openings occurs at Doak Campbell Stadium. Riding an Appaloosa horse named Renegade, Osceola charges down out of the tunnel and plants a flaming spear at midfield.

The tradition traces its roots to September 16, 1978, and a game against Oklahoma State. That's when a student wearing Native American clothes led the Seminoles from their tunnel riding a horse. By the start of the 2003 season, three different horses and 10 riders had performed in the Osceola-Renegade production.

Sixteen horses have been trained in the Renegade program, including Tonka and Spiderman—the understudies for current Osceola mount Sharky. Jim Kidder was the original Osceola; Reo was the first Renegade.

The Osceola spectacular was the brainstorm of Bill Durham, a local businessman who was a member of the school's homecoming committee in 1962. Durham's idea did not catch on until Bobby Bowden came to Florida State more than a decade later.

Durham trained the horses for 20 years before passing on the responsibility to his son Allen. The Seminole Indian Tribe of Florida designed and approved the clothing and rigging worn by Osceola and Renegade.

A related tradition, the war chant, became a Florida State staple several years later. A form of the chant had been introduced in the 1960s by the Marching Chiefs band, but it didn't catch on until 1984. That's when the band began performing the long-dormant cheer during a game against Auburn, and some students joined in and continued the "war chant" portion after the music had ceased.

The chant picked up steam in the 1985 and '86 seasons, and fans added the chopping hand motion to symbolize the brandishing of a tomahawk. The war chant and tomahawk chop later became wildly popular among Atlanta Braves fans.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

2. Rambling Wreck of Georgia Tech

Looking for a classic car? Come to Atlanta, where the Rambling Wreck car has led Georgia Tech onto the field since 1961. The distinctive white and gold vehicle is a restored 1930 Model A Ford Sport Coupe.

It was unveiled at a September 30, 1961, game—that season's home opener against Rice. But the car's tradition goes back much further.

The first reference to a "Rambling Wreck" applied to a 1914 Ford owned by Floyd Field, a dean of men in 1927. Georgia Tech's student newspaper, the *Technique*, called the car a "Rambling Wreck" and tried to discourage Field from selling it. He disposed of it anyway.

The crusade was continued by The *Technique*, which began sponsoring a yearly collegiate auto race from Atlanta to Athens in 1929. Known as the "Old Ford Race" or the "Flying Flivver Race," it eventually was deemed too dangerous and discontinued.

Instead, the school promoted a Rambling Wreck Parade, which is still held every homecoming weekend. Students are asked to produce outlandish cars capable of traveling a short distance on campus.

In the late 1950s, the school decided it wanted a car that would forever be the official Rambling Wreck. Georgia Tech vice president James Dull's search for a pre-1940 vintage model ended when he found a suitable car parked right in front of his apartment building.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

The car, a 1930 Ford Cabriolet Sport Coupe, was owned by Ted J. Johnson, an airlines pilot who had restored it as a gift for his son. Georgia Tech purchased it instead for $1,000, and restored it again in 1982.

The phrase Rambling Wreck is an important part of Georgia Tech's tradition, as well as the title of the school's fight song, which begins:

I'm a Ramblin' Wreck from Georgia Tech and a hell of an engineer

The song became so famous that Richard Nixon and Nikita Khrushchev sang it at their historic 1959 meeting in Moscow.

1. Rock rubbing and hill running in Death Valley

After pregame instructions are completed, the players file onto two buses and ride halfway around the stadium to the opposite end zone. The band begins playing Tiger Rag. The purple carpet is rolled out.

Gradually, dozens of emotional, orange-clad football players emerge, enter the gate and, one-by-one, rub a rock sitting on a pedestal. Then they dance around as the music plays and the crowd noise increases. And finally the cannon sounds, triggering what broadcaster Brent Musburger once called "the most exciting 25 seconds in college football."

The players run down a hill. More accurately, they run down *The Hill.*

How popular is the tradition at Clemson? The nearby high school, D.W. Daniel, has a miniature version of the hill they run down at home games. Last year, Clemson had James "Radio" Kennedy—the South Carolina man who inspired the 2003 movie *Radio*—run down The Hill before the upset of Florida State.

There is no great story about how the tradition started. It probably was the quickest way to reach the football field.

When Memorial Stadium (aka Death Valley) was opened in 1942, the locker rooms were up the street in Fike Fieldhouse. Once the players got dressed, they walked to the stadium, entered the gate where the big scoreboard now stands and ran down The Hill for warmups.

That routine continued for a quarter of a century—without fanfare. And then along came the rock, which was picked up in Death Valley, Calif., by alumnus S.C. Jones and given to coach Frank Howard in either 1964 or '65. Howard decided to dispose of it a year or so later, but aide Gene Willimon, noting that it had been toted cross country by a caring fan, instead mounted it on a pedestal that bore the inscription, "From Death Valley, Calif., to Death Valley, S.C."

The pedestal was placed at the top of The Hill and the ceremonial rubbing of Howard's Rock officially started before the 1967 season opener. That's when Howard, recognizing the psychological possibilities, told his players to keep their filthy hands off the rock unless they intended to give 110 percent. The Tigers beat Wake Forest, 23-6.

When the media got wind of that story, a legend was born. And the Running of The Hill became a highlight of every game, embellished with pageantry and choreography that raises fan emotion to fever pitch. The Tigers have charged down The Hill 300 times now. And with the exception of the 1970 and '71 seasons and four games in 1972, they have run down it for every home game since 1942.

Some players sprint down the hill and leap in the air; others take their time. Coach Tommy Bowden carefully jogs down, away from the carpet, because of his bad knees. Every now and then, a player falls. Before a game last season, walk-on wide receiver Gene Pate—the Tigers' holder on field goals and extra points—broke his leg by leaping in the air and landing wrong.

There once was a copycat version of the rock. Before the 2001 Humanitarian Bowl in blustery Boise, Idaho, some industrious Clemson student managers built a replica of Howard's Rock—out of snow. Sure enough, the players entered the field by rubbing it until it fell over.

The Hill and Howard's Rock carry deep meaning at Clemson. Some ACC schools may finish ahead of the Tigers on the scoreboard. But they can't match them in heart-pounding tradition. **TSN**

Jon Solomon covers ACC sports for The (Columbia, S.C.) State.

Follow the Top ACC Prospects

QB - ?
RB - ?
FB - ?
WR - ?
TE - ?
OT - ?
G - ?
C - ?

DT - ?
DE - ?
OLB - ?
ILB - ?
CB - ?
S - ?
P - ?
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SCOUTING the teams

Projected finish

1. Florida State 10-1, 7-1
2. Miami 9-2, 6-2
3. Virginia 8-3, 5-3
4. Clemson 8-3, 5-3
5. Maryland 8-3, 5-3
6. Virginia Tech 8-4, 5-3
7. N.C. State 7-4, 4-4
8. Georgia Tech 6-5, 4-4
9. Wake Forest 5-6, 2-6
10. North Carolina 3-8, 1-7
11. Duke 2-9, 0-8

FLORIDA STATE SEMINOLES

Projected finish: 10-1 7-1/1st in conference

By Josh Robbins

The naysayers said Florida State's defense no longer could dominate, and that the offense lacked playmakers. Supposedly, the rest of the ACC had caught up to the Seminoles. Bobby Bowden, supposedly, had lost control of his program.

Well, as it turned out, Florida State had not lost its swagger, after all.

Displaying a newfound sense of team unity, the Seminoles and their coach proved doubters wrong last season by winning their 11th ACC title in 12 years (second in a row) and posting a 10-3 record. And now, as the 2004 season approaches, the Seminoles can keep a straight face when they talk about contending for a national championship.

Although the defense lost seven starters, the Seminoles should be especially strong in the secondary and at linebacker. The offense lost only two starters—tailback Greg Jones and wide receiver P.K. Sam—and the offensive line should be improved. But there is one overriding question: What kind of play will the Seminoles get from their quarterback?

DAVID DUROCHIK FOR TSN

No one doubts senior Chris Rix possesses fantastic physical ability. But can he provide the consistent leadership and play the team needs to defeat Miami for the first time since 1999 and win the ACC title again?

Coaches named Rix the offense's MVP after spring drills, but he realizes he must improve. "Awards are great," he says, "but I still have a long ways to go."

COACHING

Strategies—The days of the Fast Break offense, in which the Seminoles used three- and four-receiver sets out of the shotgun without huddling, are over.

Although FSU often employs the shotgun and occasionally goes to the no-huddle, the brain trust is far more conservative with Rix than it was during the tenure of his predecessor, Chris Weinke. Last season, 51.7 percent of the Seminoles' offensive plays were rushing attempts, the third year in a row running plays outnumbered passes.

FSU still does a lot of its damage on deep passes, especially off play-action. But Bowden, hoping to diversify, wants to see more throws to the running backs and tight ends. That is wise because tailbacks Leon Washington and Lorenzo Booker thrive with the ball in space. The tight ends, still unpolished as pass catchers, are making strides.

Defensive coordinator Mickey Andrews places his strongest emphasis on stopping opponents' running games and preventing the big play. Andrews, who doubles as defensive backs coach, would prefer to position his cornerbacks in bump-and-run coverage. But, with somewhat less talented corners to work with in recent years, he has shied away from that strategy. This year, he has a trio—seniors Bryant McFadden and Leroy Smith and

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	TSN pick
Sept. 6	at Miami	W
Sept. 18	UAB	W
Sept. 25	Clemson	W
Oct. 2	North Carolina	W
Oct. 9	at Syracuse	W
Oct. 16	Virginia	W
Oct. 23	at Wake Forest	W
Oct. 30	at Maryland	W
Nov. 6	Duke	W
Nov. 11	at N.C. State	L
Nov. 20	Florida	W

Strength of schedule rank
Conference: 3
Nation: 16

GAME OF THE YEAR

No school lobbied harder than Florida State to have Miami join the ACC. Now, the Seminoles will reap what they sowed: a Labor Day nationally televised game that could decide the league title. FSU has lost five straight to the Canes, and a victory at the Orange Bowl could propel the Seminoles to a national-title run. Another loss would create headaches for FSU and oft-criticized quarterback Chris Rix.

In Year 1 of the expanded ACC, the Seminoles will not play Georgia Tech, which nearly upset the 'Noles in 2002 and '03, or Virginia Tech. FSU also profits from playing Clemson, Virginia and Florida at Doak Campbell Stadium. Since joining the ACC in 1992, the Seminoles haven't lost a home game to the Tigers or Cavaliers. Tallahassee has been a house of horrors for Florida, too. But there are potential pitfalls. Maryland should have its quarterback situation resolved before FSU travels to Byrd Stadium in late October. The Seminoles also must play a Thursday night game against N.C. State in Raleigh.

More on Florida State at foxsports.com/named/FS/CFB/teams

Barron played well as a first-time starter in 2003, but the coaching staff wants more.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

sophomore Antonio Cromartie—with the physical tools to excel in press coverage.

To prevent the big play, Andrews is willing to allow opponents to dink and dunk the ball all over the field, a strategy that yields big yardage totals but not necessarily points.

Style—Andrews is in complete charge of the defense, and Bowden no longer calls offensive plays, but he does have significant input in the offense. Early each game week, Bowden gives his offensive coaches the general parameters and framework for that week's game plan, and it's up to coordinator Jeff Bowden to work out the specifics. Andrews is vocal, but he has the players' respect. He and linebackers coach Kevin Steele, Baylor's former head coach, work well together.

But do not underestimate Bowden's overall influence. In 2003, he re-established the Unity Council, a group of players he selected and met with once a week during the season. The meetings allowed players to voice concerns and Bowden to express his point of view. Players said the arrangement helped improve team unity and prevented the finger pointing that marked the previous two years.

OFFENSE

Quarterbacks—Rix is a lightning rod for criticism, probably because his athletic abilities are so obvious. Though his release point varies occasionally, and that sometimes affects his accuracy, Rix throws with as much velocity as Weinke. He also runs almost as well as Charlie Ward.

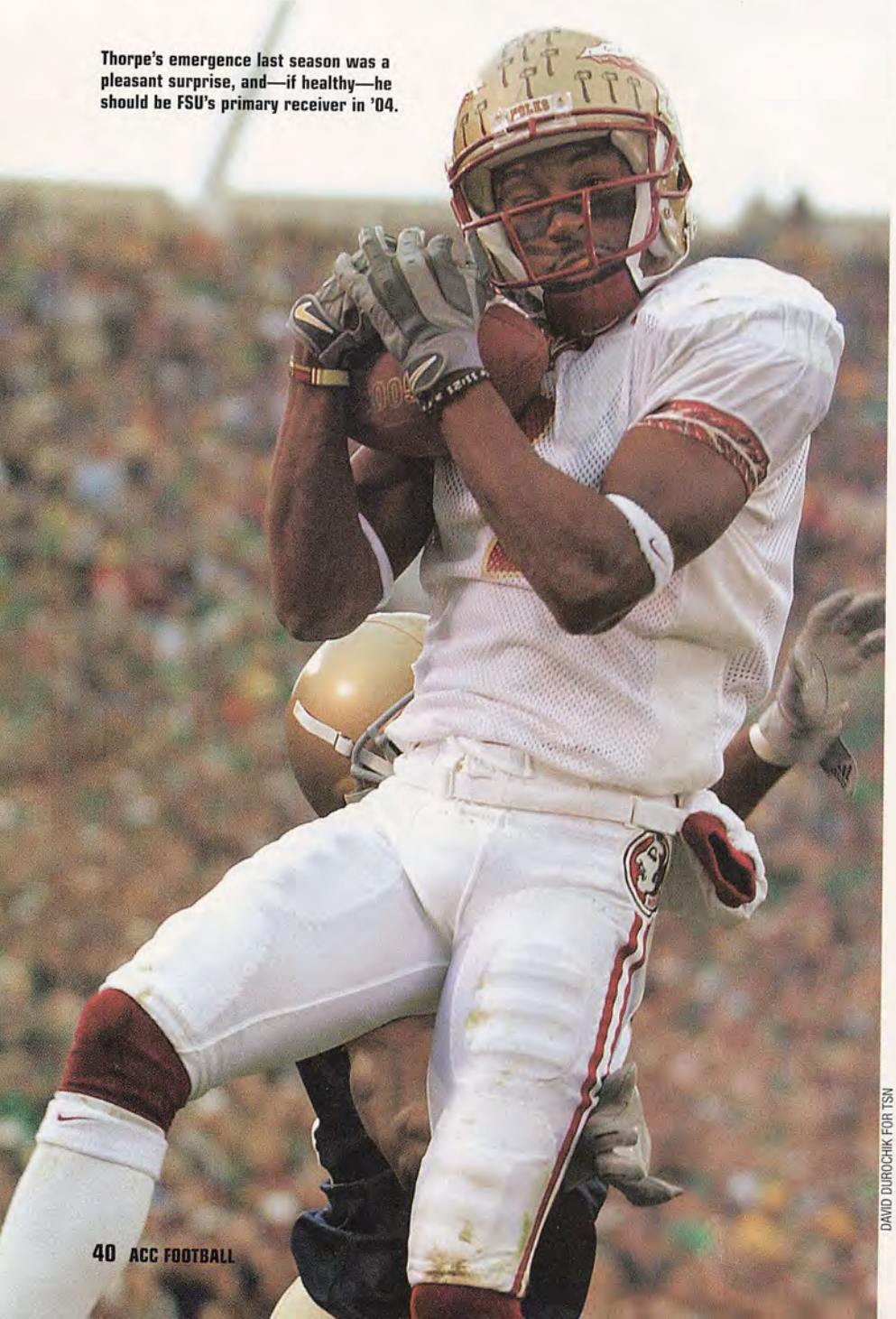
But, despite his 34 career starts, Rix still needs to make progress with the mental aspects of his game. He does not read coverages well and sometimes does not go through his progressions accurately. He has made some strides in staying in the pocket, but he still is prone to scrambling forward before it becomes necessary. He is, basically, a feast-or-famine quarterback.

Those tendencies explain in part why FSU coaches were so conservative in their game planning against Miami in the Orange Bowl. Rix attempted only 19 passes that day. Still, he plays extremely hard and is willing to sacrifice his body.

The transfer of Fabian Walker elevates third-year sophomore Wyatt Sexton to the second-string role. Sexton, the son of longtime FSU running backs coach Billy Sexton, throws a prettier pass than Rix, without as much zip. Sexton excels at distributing the ball to running backs and tight ends and letting them make plays. Now, with only five pass attempts as a college player, he must shake off two years' worth of rust.

The 'Noles have two touted incoming freshmen who have great upside—Xavier Lee and Drew Weatherford—and one might be the third stringer this season.

Running backs—Washington and Booker, both of whom are recovered from 2003 injuries, should give FSU an outstanding 1-2 punch at tailback. Washington, at 5-9, 202, might be small, but he excels at running



Thorpe's emergence last season was a pleasant surprise, and—if healthy—he should be FSU's primary receiver in '04.

DAVID DUROCHIK FOR TSN

An ACC coach says...

Chris Rix has always been the most talented quarterback in the league, but it comes down to what you get with him. He can be awful one half and Peyton Manning the next. He can run the ball. He can throw the ball. He's extremely fast. He has all the tools. It's hard to knock the kid too much because they didn't lose many last year, and two of the losses were to Miami. ... I really like **Craphonso Thorpe**. He is big, and he can run. He's like a lot of their receivers, who all seem to go 6-1, 6-2 now. ... I think **Leon Washington** is the best player in the ACC. He can return kicks and punts. He plays running back so well, and he's a gunner on their punt coverage. ... Florida State is more straight-ahead on offense than it has been. They're not predictable, but they're not doing a lot of fancy things. They use their athletes. They go three wides, run isolation or just throw the ball up to their receivers and let them make plays. ... For a while, their 85 players just seemed to be much better than the rest of the conference because they were taking the cream of the crop. That's not the case anymore. ... Their defense has had some problems recently. They were getting great corners in the past, but they haven't had them. They're playing a little more zone than before, or they're going man-free. You can beat their pass defense more than you used to be able to.

between the tackles. Washington, who was Mr. Florida football as a high school senior in 2001, is a natural leader and has earned his teammates' respect.

Booker, one of the top-ranked high school tailbacks in the 2002 recruiting class, has more of a slashing style than Washington. Booker relies on juke moves and quick cuts that often make defenders look silly.

Depth could be a problem if anything happens to Washington or Booker. Incoming freshman Jamaal Edwards could begin the season third on the depth chart.

The fullbacks, juniors B.J. Dean and James Coleman, are essentially interchangeable. Both are far better blockers than runners or receivers.

Receivers—Craphonso Thorpe established himself as FSU's most improved offensive player last year, but his season ended prematurely when a North Carolina State player inadvertently fell on the back of his right leg. Thorpe broke his tibia and fibula, but team doctors expect him to be ready for the 2004 season opener.

If Thorpe regains his speed—he was the ACC's 100- and 200-meter sprint champion in 2003—it would provide an enormous boost to the receiving unit, which unexpectedly lost P.K. Sam to the NFL. Thorpe caught 51 passes for 994 yards and 11 touchdowns last season and is, without doubt, FSU's top deep threat.

The rest of the group also has talent. Senior Chauncey Stovall, who caught a team-high four passes for 79 yards in the Orange Bowl, could be another prime target for Rix. Third-year sophomore Lorne Sam, P.K.'s younger brother, impressed coaches with his speed in spring drills before he pulled a hamstring.

Senior Willie Reid, who initially was recruited as a tailback, spent part of 2003 backing up Greg Jones after Washington and Booker suffered injuries. When that brief position change ended, Reid didn't get the playing time he deserved. Senior Dominic Robinson, a possession receiver, also should be a factor, as should third-year sophomore Chris Davis, who finally appears fully recovered from an ACL tear. Coaches also will look at freshman DeCody Fagg, who could benefit from enrolling at FSU last January.

None of the three tight ends who will play regularly—senior Paul Irons and juniors Matt Henshaw and Donnie Carter—were recruited for that position. All have worked on their pass-catching skills, with Henshaw and Carter emerging as the top threats.

Line—Florida State linemen generally are more effective pass blockers than run blockers, but senior tackles Alex Barron and Ray Willis defy that generalization.

Coaches believe Barron (6-6, 308) has plenty of room for improvement—they say he is the most athletically gifted lineman they've had—but he still made four major All-American teams last season. Willis also

NICKEL PACKAGE

Five things to look for

1 Chris Rix must lead. The fifth-year quarterback has started 34 games but has been erratic. Rix must be more dependable if FSU is to challenge for a national title.

2 See Leon Washington go. If the 5-9 junior can stay healthy, he'll be one of the ACC's top tailbacks.

3 Can the offensive line stay healthy? Without continuity along the front, the unit will disappoint.

4 Someone must fill Darnell Dockett's shoes. Last season, the tackle was the focal point of the FSU defense. Somebody—perhaps A.J. Nicholson or Brodrick Bunkley—must become the defense's new spiritual leader.

5 Can you spare a sack? After only 14 in 2001, FSU recorded 34 in 2002 and 36 last year. With Eric Moore, Chauncey Davis and Kamerion Wimbley at defensive end, the upward trend might continue.

QUICK HITS

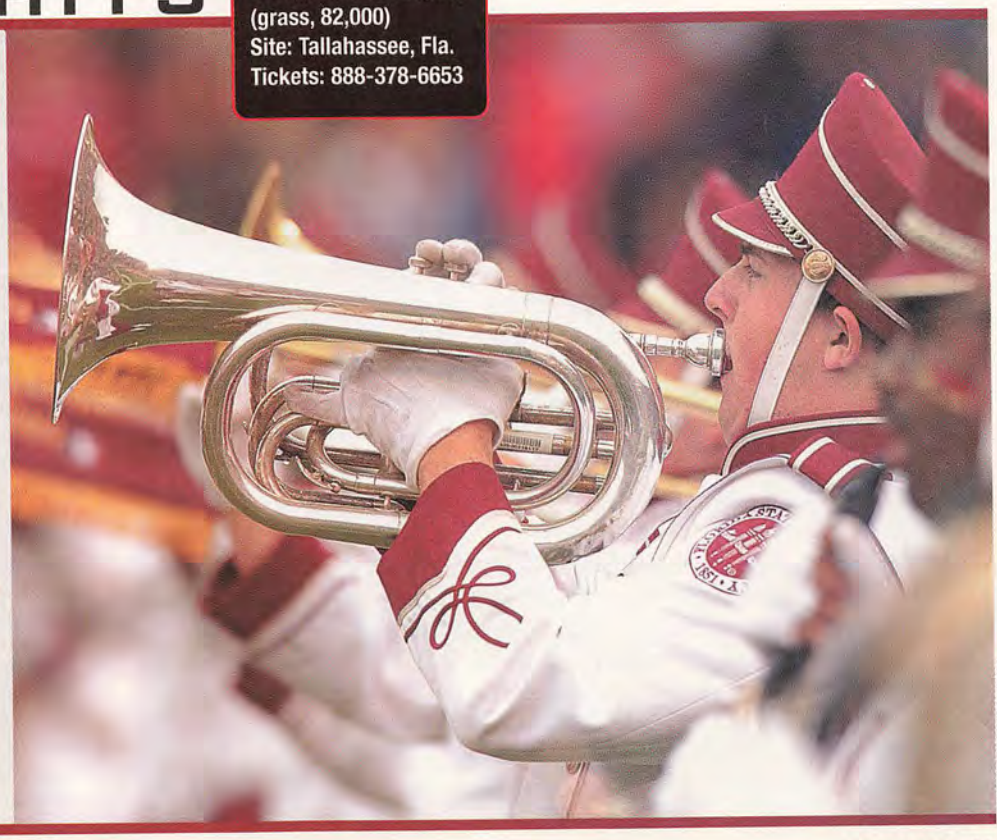
COACHING STAFF

Head coach: Bobby Bowden (269-67-4, 28 years; 342-99-4 overall, 38 years)
Associate head coach/defensive coordinator: Mickey Andrews (20th year)
Offensive coordinator/wide receivers: Jeff Bowden (3rd year, 10th overall)
Defensive ends: Jody Allen (4th year)
Quarterbacks: Daryl Dickey (3rd year)
Defensive tackles: Odell Haggins (10th year)
Offensive line: Jimmy Heggins (11th year, 18th overall)
Strength and conditioning: Jon Jost (3rd year)
Tight ends/recruiting: John Lilly (9th year)
Assistant head coach/running backs: Billy Sexton (27th year)
Linebackers: Kevin Steele (1st year)

FORMATIONS AND FIGURES

Offensive scheme: Pro set
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Last league title won: 2003
Last time didn't go to a bowl: 1981
2003 TSN preseason rank: 14
2003 record: 10-3 (lost to Miami in Orange Bowl); ACC: 7-1/1st
Website: www.seminoles.com

Stadium: Doak Campbell (grass, 82,000)
Site: Tallahassee, Fla.
Tickets: 888-378-6653



DAVID DUROCHIK FOR TSN

RECRUITING

2004 CLASS

RATINGS BY RIVALS.COM

NAME	POS.	HT./WT.	HOMETOWN/SCHOOL
★★★★★ AMONG THE NATION'S TOP 30 PROSPECTS			
Xavier Lee	QB	6-4/200	Daytona Beach, Fla./Seabreeze
★★★★ AMONG THE NATION'S TOP 200 PROSPECTS			
Dumaka Atkins	OL	6-4/280	Sarasota, Fla./Booker
J.R. Bryant	DB	6-1/170	Miami/Killian
Greg Carr	WR	6-6/200	Citra, Fla./North Marion
Tony Carter	DB	5-9/175	Jacksonville, Fla./Mandarin
Jacky Claude	OL	6-4/290	Miami/Edison
Emmanuel Dunbar	DL	6-5/265	Deerfield Beach, Fla./Deerfield Beach
Jamaal Edwards	RB	6-0/202	Greensboro, N.C./Dudley
Trevor Ford	DB	6-1/187	Miami/Northwestern
Rodney Gallon	LB	6-0/210	Tallahassee, Fla./Lincoln
Aaron Jones III	DT	6-3/270	Orlando/Edgewater
Kenny O'Neal	WR	6-1/195	Oakland, Calif./Skyline
Jae Thaxton	LB	6-3/225	Hartwell, Ga./Hart County
Lawrence Timmons	LB	6-3/225	Florence, S.C./Wilson
Drew Weatherford	QB	6-3/205	Land O'Lakes Fla./Land O' Lakes
Barry Wright	LB	5-11/215	Coffeyville, Kan./Coffeyville C.C.
★★★ AMONG THE NATION'S TOP 600 PROSPECTS			
Courtney Abbott	OL	6-9/335	Atlanta/Westlake
Geoff Berniard	OL	6-8/320	Lafayette, La./St. Thomas More
DeCody Fagg	WR	6-3/185	Quincy, Fla./Hargrave Military Academy (Va.)
Kenny Ingram	DB	6-6/200	Orlando/Edgewater
Cornelius Lewis	OL	6-4/305	Jacksonville/Raines
Lamar Lewis	RB	5-9/188	Jacksonville/Trinity Christian
Joe Manning	DB	6-0/175	Tallahassee, Fla./Lincoln
Darius McClure	DB	5-11/188	Adamsville, Ala./Minor
★★ SOLID DIVISION I PROSPECT			
Gary Cismesia	K	5-11/209	Bradenton, Fla./Lakewood Ranch
Joe Surratt	FB	6-1/255	Pace, Fla./Pace

INSIDE DISH

The Seminoles finished with the nation's No. 3 class, trailing only LSU and Southern California. The class will offer a big boost at linebacker, quarterback and defensive back. … Florida State signed one five-star prospect, quarterback **Xavier Lee**, and 15 four-star standouts. Lee was considered the nation's No. 1 dual-threat quarterback after a stellar career at Seabreeze High of Daytona Beach, Fla., in which he finished as Florida's all-time leader in passing yards (9,082), completions (549) and touchdowns (98). Auburn and Texas also were in the hunt, but Lee chose to take his 4.5 speed to Tallahassee and could be a Charlie Ward type of player. And don't forget about **Drew Weatherford**, another top quarterback prospect. … Defensive coordinator **Mickey Andrews** was excited on signing day when FSU added cornerbacks **Trevor Ford** and **J.R. Bryant**. Both are natives of Miami who turned down the hometown Hurricanes. Fellow defensive back **Tony Carter** was one of the fastest players in Florida. … In addition to Miami, FSU went into other areas and won recruiting battles against local schools. Linebacker **Lawrence Timmons** of Florence, S.C., was the top-ranked player in his state but chose FSU over Clemson and South Carolina. … The team might have secured its running back of the future when **Jamaal Edwards** of Greensboro, N.C., signed. He was rated No. 6 at his position. Edwards also considered North Carolina, Tennessee and Clemson. … Wide receiver **Kenny O'Neal** of Oakland is the son of former New Orleans Saints tight end Kenny O'Neal Sr. —*Rivals.com*

has NFL talent, but he makes his biggest contribution as a team leader.

Coaches consider junior center David Castillo the team's most courageous player. Castillo, an outstanding student who intends to become a surgeon, played most of last season with a fractured foot and had offseason surgery to correct the problem.

Junior Matt Meinrod, the starter at split guard, was probably the team's most consistent lineman last season, and coaches expect him to improve as he gets stronger. The biggest question mark is tight guard, where senior Bobby Meeks and junior Ron Lunford should compete for the starting job.

Meeks struggled with a wide range of injuries last year—including a banged-up right shoulder, asthma, pneumonia and tonsillitis—which paved the way for Lunford to move from tackle to guard. Listed at 358 pounds in the spring, Lunford would benefit from taking off weight.

DEFENSE

Line—No unit was hit harder by graduation than the line, which lost tackle Darnell Dockett, nose tackle Jeff Womble and end Kevin Emanuel.

Replacing Dockett, an All-ACC selection last season, will be a tough task that falls to senior Travis Johnson. Johnson was one of the nation's top defensive tackles coming out of high school, but he hasn't yet fulfilled that promise because of injuries. Johnson may be a better pass rusher than Dockett, but he isn't nearly as strong against the run.

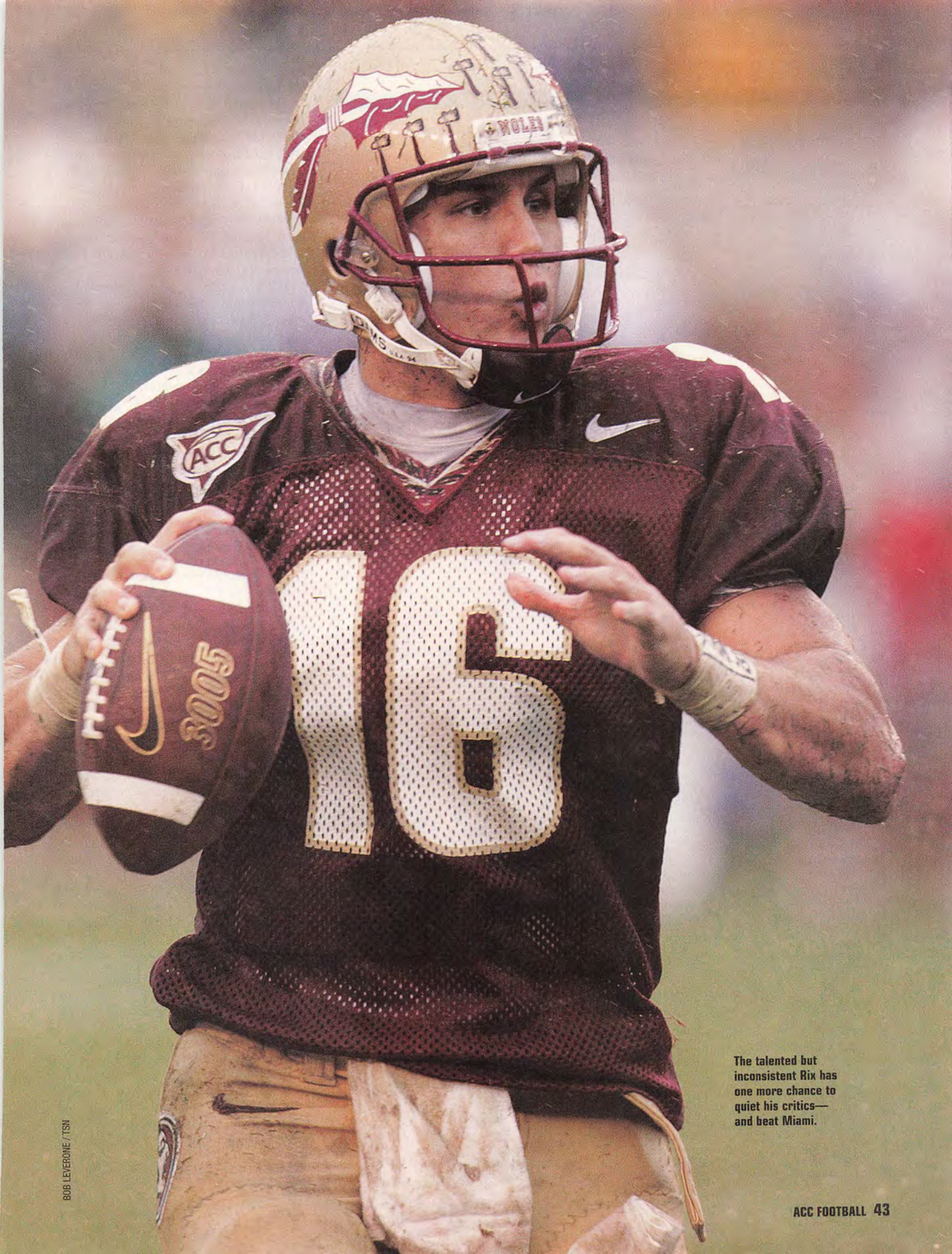
Coaches considered Brodrick Bunkley a starter last season, even though he played behind Womble. Bunkley, a junior who now checks in at 6-3, 291, has added muscle and could be an upgrade.

Senior ends Eric Moore and Chauncey Davis are the team's top pass rushers. Moore led the team with 7½ sacks last year and is enormously quick. Davis added two sacks in limited playing time. Junior Kamerion Wimbley, who relies on speed even more than Moore, will back up both.

At 265 pounds, senior Charles Howard is undersized as a defensive tackle. But he is a converted end who will play primarily on third down as a pass rusher.

Linebackers—The Seminoles lost all three starters to graduation, but this group should be every bit as effective as it was last year.

Junior A.J. Nicholson takes over on the weak side, and he is a future star. So might be sophomore Ernie Sims, FSU's top 2002 recruit who will be asked to replace Michael Boulware on the strong side. Even as a freshman, Sims was one of FSU's best-conditioned and most athletic players. He regards himself first and foremost a hitter, and while Boulware was fantastic in coverage and as a team leader, Sims will provide more impact plays. At 6-3, 226, junior middle man Sam McGrew has more size than



The talented but inconsistent Rix has one more chance to quiet his critics—and beat Miami.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

SEMINOLES ROSTER

NO.	NAME	HT./WT.	CL.	EXP.	HOMETOWN/PREVIOUS SCHOOL
			QUARTERBACKS		
16	Chris Rix	6-4/210	Sr.	3L	Santa Margarita, Calif./Catholic
19	Wyatt Sexton	6-3/206	So.	1L	Tallahassee, Fla./Leon
			RUNNING BACKS		
28	Lorenzo Booker	5-11/187	So.	2L	Ventura, Calif./St. Bonaventure
49	Chad Canfield (FB)	5-10/236	Jr.	1L	Apopka, Fla./Fort Frances
36	James Coleman (FB)	6-0/245	Jr.	2L	Tallahassee, Fla./Florida High
35	B.J. Dean (FB)	5-11/258	Jr.	2L	Tuscaloosa, Ala./Central
22	Marlon Napier	5-9/211	Sr.	1L	Tallahassee, Fla./Rickards
3	Leon Washington	5-9/202	Jr.	2L	Jacksonville/Andrew Jackson
20	Torrance Washington (FB)	6-1/241	So.	1L	Madison County, Fla./Madison
			RECEIVERS/TIGHT ENDS		
88	Donnie Carter (TE)	6-4/255	Jr.	2L	Waycross, Ga./Ware County
5	Chris Davis	6-0/176	So.	1L	St. Petersburg, Fla./Catholic
14	Matt Henshaw (TE)	6-4/231	Jr.	2L	Brentwood, Tenn./Brentwood
38	Paul Irons (TE)	6-2/242	Sr.	3L	New Orleans/St. Augustine
26	Willie Reid	5-10/186	Sr.	2L	Kathleen, Ga./Warner Robins
21	Dominic Robinson	6-1/205	Sr.	3L	Diamond Bar, Calif./Diamond Bar
18	Lorne Sam	6-2/206	So.	1L	Buford, Ga./Buford
83	Joslin Shaw	5-10/183	Fr.	RS	Plant City, Fla./Plant City
74	Dontrell Stills	6-1/268	Jr.	SQ	Lakeland, Fla./Lakeland
15	Chauncey Stovall	6-2/216	Sr.	1L	Gifford, Fla./Hinds CC
1	Craphonso Thorpe	6-2/177	Sr.	3L	Tallahassee, Fla./Lincoln
			OFFENSIVE LINEMEN		
70	Alex Barron (T)	6-6/308	Sr.	3L	Orangeburg, S.C./Wilkinson
65	Eric Broe (G)	6-6/316	So.	SQ	Norcross, Ga./Wesleyan
63	David Castillo (C)	6-2/304	Jr.	3L	Palm Beach, Fla./Palm Beach Gardens
67	John Frady (C)	6-4/298	So.	1L	Jacksonville/Bolles
57	Matt Heinz (G)	6-4/268	Jr.	1L	Tallahassee, Fla./North Florida Christian
75	Mario Henderson (T)	6-7/307	So.	1L	Lehigh Acres, Fla./Lehigh
72	Ron Lunford (G)	6-5/358	Jr.	2L	Jacksonville/White
73	Bobby Meeks (G)	6-3/299	Sr.	3L	Aldine, Texas/Nimitz
64	Matt Meinrod (G)	6-4/297	Jr.	2L	Tampa/East Lake
62	Cory Niblock (G)	6-4/301	So.	1L	St. Augustine, Fla./Nease
79	David Overmyer	6-5/284	Fr.	RS	Lilburn, Ga./Parkview
71	Brian Ross (C)	6-2/290	Sr.	3L	Raleigh/Enloe
77	Ray Willis (T)	6-6/320	Sr.	3L	Angleton, Texas/Angleton
			DEFENSIVE LINEMEN		
98	Alex Boston (E)	6-3/225	Fr.	RS	Bartow, Fla./Bartow
93	Chris Bradwell (T)	6-5/265	Fr.	RS	Alpharetta, Ga./Chattahoochee
52	Brodrick Bunkley (T)	6-3/291	Jr.	2L	Tampa/Chamberlain
92	Darrell Burston (E)	6-2/228	So.	1L	Fayetteville, Ga./Starrs Mill
94	Chauncey Davis (E)	6-2/258	Sr.	1L	Auburndale, Fla./Jones CC
97	Clifton Dickson (T)	6-4/308	So.	1L	Miami/Northwestern
96	Andre Fluellen (T)	6-4/270	Fr.	RS	Cartersville, Ga./Coffee County
59	Charles Howard (T)	6-3/265	Sr.	3L	Lake Butler, Fla./Union County
99	Travis Johnson (T)	6-5/290	Sr.	3L	Sherman Oaks, Calif./Notre Dame
29	Willie Jones (E)	6-1/242	Jr.	2L	Miami/Carol City
55	Eric Moore (E)	6-4/244	Sr.	3L	Pahokee, Fla./Pahokee
82	D.J. Norris (E)	6-3/252	Fr.	RS	Pace, Fla./Pace
95	Kamerion Wimbley (E)	6-4/228	Jr.	2L	Wichita, Kan./Northwest
			LINEBACKERS		
39	Marcello Church	6-1/233	Jr.	2L	St. Petersburg, Fla./Lakewood
51	Buster Davis	5-11/248	So.	1L	Daytona Beach, Fla./Mainland
44	Sam McGrew	6-3/226	Jr.	2L	Crawfordville, Fla./Wakulla
54	A.J. Nicholson	6-2/235	Jr.	2L	Winston-Salem, N.C./Mt. Tabor
27	Claudius Osei (ROV)	6-0/197	Sr.	3L	Tallahassee, Fla./North Florida Christian
56	Ray Piquion	6-0/212	Sr.	3L	Miami/Miami Beach
34	Ernie Sims	6-0/220	So.	1L	Tallahassee, Fla./North Florida Christian
31	Roger Williams (ROV)	6-1/192	Fr.	RS	Warner Robins, Ga./Northside
			DEFENSIVE BACKS		
23	Jerome Carter (SS)	6-0/219	Sr.	3L	Lake City, Fla./Columbia
13	Antonio Cromartie (CB)	6-3/197	So.	1L	Tallahassee, Fla./Lincoln
41	Kyler Hall (S)	6-0/194	Sr.	2L	Live Oak, Fla./Suwannee
29	Chris Martin (S)	6-0/193	Fr.	RS	Tallahassee, Fla./Lincoln
33	Jhermaine McAroy (CB)	6-1/168	Fr.	RS	Pensacola, Fla./Pensacola Senior
8	Bryant McFadden (CB)	6-0/186	Sr.	3L	Hollywood, Fla./McArthur
11	Gerard Ross (CB)	6-2/190	Jr.	2L	Jacksonville/Trinity Christian
32	Leroy Smith (CB)	5-10/190	Sr.	3L	Quincy, Fla./Shanks
24	B.J. Ward (S)	6-3/208	Sr.	3L	Dallas/Kimball
22	Pat Watkins (S)	6-4/204	Jr.	2L	Tallahassee, Fla./Lincoln
			SPECIALISTS		
47	Xavier Beitia (K)	5-10/198	Sr.	3L	Tampa/Jesuit
48	Chris Hall (P)	5-10/220	Jr.	SQ	Centreville, Va./Centreville
76	Myles Hodish (DS)	6-0/229	Jr.	1L	Ft. Lauderdale, Fla./Aquinas

his predecessor, Allen Augustin, and should do better stuffing the run.

The second unit has fewer impact players, but they do provide quality depth. Junior Marcello Church and senior Ray Piquion work on the outside, while third-year sophomore Buster Davis provides backup in the middle. Davis has shed weight from his 5-11 frame and should be more effective.

Secondary—The defensive backfield should be much improved, despite the losses of cornerbacks Stanford Samuels and Rufus Brown to graduation.

McFadden returns to one corner, with Smith reclaiming his starting job on the other. Both have plenty of speed. McFadden has excellent size, while Smith tied last season with safety Pat Watkins for the team lead in interceptions with three. Sophomore corner Cromartie probably has better NFL prospects than either of them.

Senior B.J. Ward and Watkins, the two free safeties, also are athletic and should play together on obvious passing downs. The rovers, seniors Jerome Carter and Kyler Hall, are better at stopping the run than defending the pass.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Senior kicker Xavier Beitia drives himself as hard as any FSU player. Before last season, he came into camp in the best shape of his life. Beitia proceeded to make 19 of 25 field-goal attempts, including 6 of 8 from 40 or more yards out. But he also had a potential game-winning 32-yarder against North Carolina State blocked, and he missed a 39-yard attempt that would have given FSU a one-point lead over Miami with 5:30 to play in the Orange Bowl.

Junior Chris Hall takes over at punter and as holder for field goals and extra points. He showed a strong leg last year, averaging 49.3 yards on three kicks.

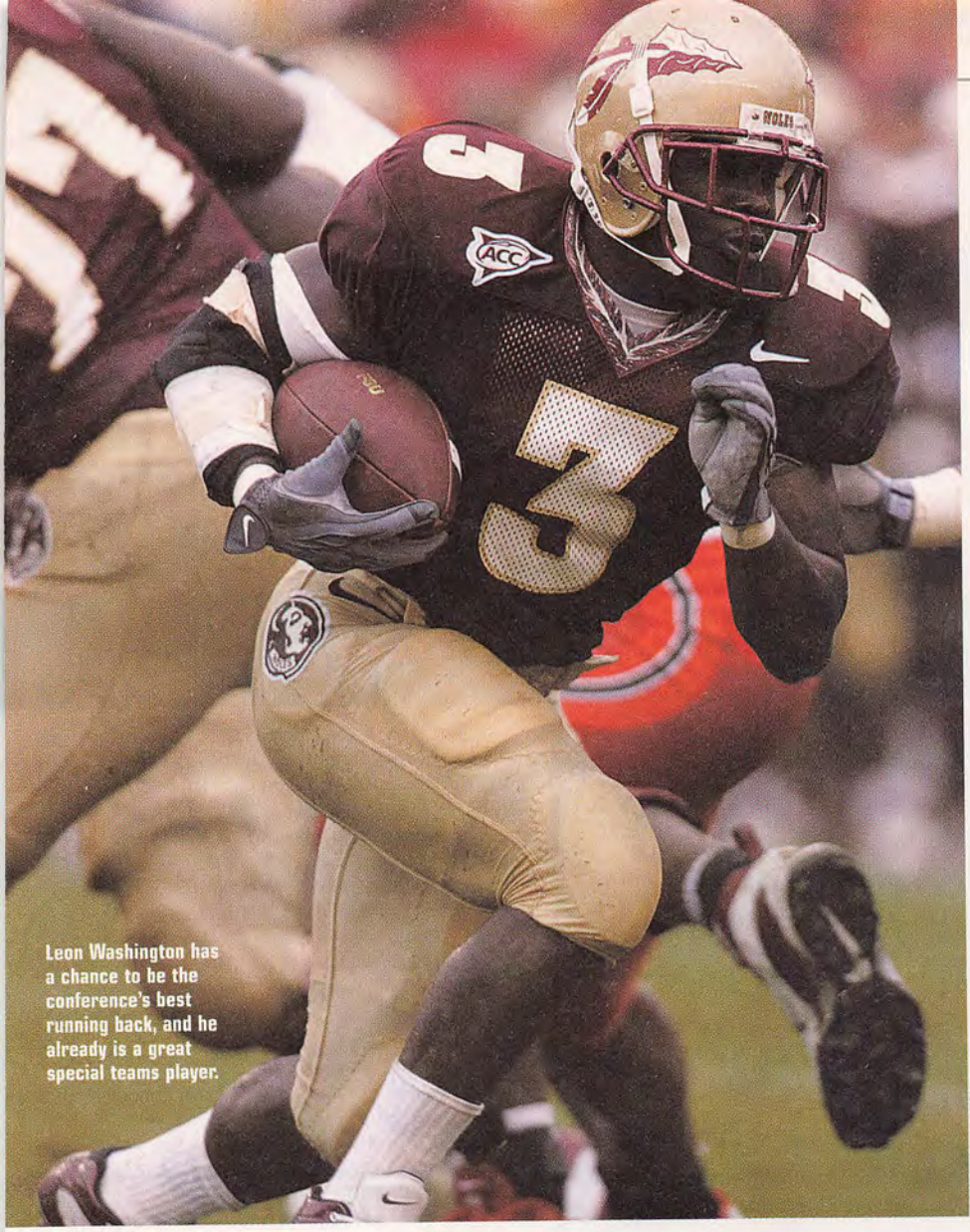
Washington is probably FSU's top kickoff and punt returner, but he suffered a dislocated elbow on a return in the 2003 season opener, and FSU coaches might not want to risk injuring him again. If Washington doesn't play on special teams, look for Robinson to return punts and Cromartie to return kickoffs.

BOTTOM LINE

Florida State has the defensive playmakers and offensive firepower to challenge for a national title. But, in the end, the Seminoles will go only as far as Rix takes them.

If Rix continues his inconsistent ways, FSU will finish its regular season with two losses. And with Miami joining the ACC this season, that might not be good enough to defend the league crown. **TSN**

Josh Robbins covers Florida State for the Orlando Sentinel.



Leon Washington has a chance to be the conference's best running back, and he already is a great special teams player.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

2003 RESULTS

at North Carolina	W, 37-0
Maryland	W, 35-10
Georgia Tech	W, 14-13
Colorado	W, 47-7
at Duke	W, 56-7
Miami	L, 22-14
at Virginia	W, 19-14
Wake Forest	W, 48-24
at Notre Dame	W, 37-0
at Clemson	L, 26-10
N.C. State	W, 50-44 (2OT)
at Florida	W, 38-34
*Miami	L, 16-14

*Orange Bowl

STATISTICAL LEADERS

Rushing	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Greg Jones	144	618	4.3	7
Leon Washington	**74**	**387**	**5.2**	**1**
Lorenzo Booker	**62**	**334**	**5.4**	**3**
Willie Reid	**34**	**159**	**4.7**	**2**
Chris Rix	**89**	**130**	**1.5**	**5**

Passing	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Int.
Chris Rix	**382**	**216**	**56.5**	**3,107**	**23**	**13**
Fabian Walker	50	30	60.0	342	3	0

Receiving	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Craphonso Thorpe	**51**	**994**	**19.5**	**11**
P.K. Sam	50	735	14.7	5
Chris Davis	**23**	**264**	**11.5**	**2**
Willie Reid	**20**	**189**	**9.4**	**1**
Chauncey Stovall	**19**	**340**	**17.9**	**2**

Kicking	XPM	XPA	FGM	FGA	Pts.
Xavier Beitia	**50**	**51**	**19**	**25**	**107**

Tackles	Solo	Assists	Total	TFL/Yds.
Michael Boulware	78	33	111	4.0/-17
Allen Augustin	52	30	82	7.0/-26
B.J. Ward	**40**	**40**	**80**	**3.0/-7**
Jerome Carter	**45**	**33**	**78**	**6.0/-14**

SACKS: Eric Moore (7.5)
INTERCEPTIONS: Pat Watkins, Leroy Smith (3)

Returning players in bold

Team	Avg.	Rank
Rushing offense:	133.4	7th ACC/77th nation
Rushing defense:	119.4	2nd/25th
Passing offense:	269.6	3rd/25th
Passing defense:	212.9	3rd/47th
Total offense:	403.0	4th/37th
Total defense:	332.3	3rd/26th
Turnover margin:	.62	1st/18th

KEY LOSSES

Offense

RB Greg Jones (144 carries, 618 yards, 7 TDs); WR P.K. Sam (50 rec., 735 yards, 5 TDs).

Defense

LB Allen Augustin (82 tackles, 4 sacks); LB Michael Boulware (team-high 111 tackles; 2.5 sacks); T Darnell Dockett (55 tackles, team-high 17 tackles for loss); E Kevin Emanuel (34 tackles, 3 sacks); LB Kendyll Pope (56 tackles, 3 sacks); CB Stanford Samuels (40 tackles); P Jesse Stein (57 punts, 42.1 avg.); T Jeff Womble (40 tackles).

THREE ON THE RISE

OLB A.J. Nicholson. This natural playmaker with ball-hawking instincts has skills that can't be taught. Although he started just three games last season, Nicholson recovered a team-high three fumbles and ranked seventh in solo tackles. Named the team's most dominant player in spring drills, he'll start on the weak side and team with Ernie Sims to give FSU an upgrade over Kendyll Pope and Michael Boulware.

WR Chauncey Stovall. With P.K. Sam's unexpected defection to the NFL, someone must emerge as a secondary receiver to Craphonso Thorpe. The best bet is Stovall, a 2002 junior college transfer. No one doubts that Stovall has the physical talent to be a top-notch receiver, but he must become more consistent.

DE Kamerion Wimbley. Barring injury, Wimbley should be the primary backup at both end positions. Not overpowering, he relies on excellent quickness to make plays and has the speed to catch running backs from behind. A junior, Wimbley will improve if he can add more muscle to his lean frame.

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

	Offense		Defense	
WR	Chauncey Stovall	LE	Chauncey Davis	
	Willie Reid		Kamerion Wimbley	
ST	Alex Barron*	T	Brodrick Bunkley	
	Mario Henderson		Clifton Dickson	
SG	Matt Meinrod*	NG	Travis Johnson	
	Cory Niblock		Charles Howard	
C	David Castillo*	RE	Eric Moore*	
	John Frady		Willie Jones	
TG	Bobby Meeks*	SLB	Ernie Sims	
	Ron Lunford		Ray Piquion	
TT	Ray Willis*	MLB	Sam McGrew	
	David Overmyer		Buster Davis	
TE	Paul Irons*	WLB	A.J. Nicholson	
	Donnie Carter		Marcello Church	
WR	Craphonso Thorpe*	LC	Bryant McFadden*	
	Dominic Robinson		Gerard Ross	
QB	Chris Rix*	SS	Jerome Carter*	
	Wyatt Sexton		Kyler Hall	
RB	Leon Washington	FS	Pat Watkins	
	Lorenzo Booker		B.J. Ward*	
FB	B.J. Dean*	RC	Leroy Smith*	
	James Coleman		Antonio Cromartie	
K	Xavier Beitia*	P	Chris Hall	
KR	Antonio Cromartie	PR	Leon Washington	

* Returning starter

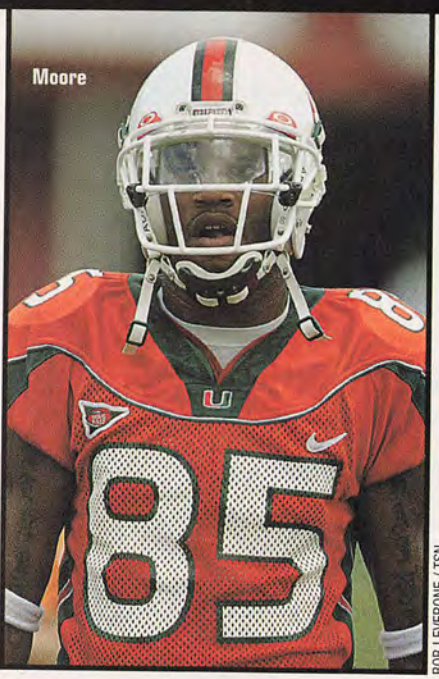
MIAMI HURRICANES

Projected finish: 9-2 6-2/2nd in conference

By Michael Bradley

The 2003 season didn't turn out anything like the Hurricanes thought it would. It was bad enough 2002 ended in a controversial Fiesta Bowl loss to Ohio State, but Miami followed that with a two-loss season that fell short of national championship expectations. Although Miami finished as Big East co-champion and defeated Florida State in the Orange Bowl—its second win of the year over the Seminoles—the 11-2 record was viewed as a disappointment by many fans, as difficult as that might seem for supporters of, say, Duke.

But Miami still is Miami, despite three losses in its past 14 games and another exodus of top-shelf talent to the NFL—six Hurricanes were drafted in the first round. There still are abundant personnel resources and the same big-play mentality that have been the cornerstone of the Hurricanes program for 20-plus years. But there is work to be done if the Hurricanes are to thrive in their first season as a member of the ACC.



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They must find a quarterback who can perform consistently. Brock Berlin didn't do that last year, and Derrick Crudup was ineffective. Could it be redshirt freshman Kyle Wright? It had better be someone. The ground game needs a boost. Newly rehabbed (again) Frank Gore could be the answer. If not, there could be trouble. The receiving corps has to be replenished. Some new linebackers must step up.

Possibilities abound, and all have those requisite shiny prep resumes. But Miami is about producing in the here and now, not potential. Some of that was missing last year.

COACHING

Strategies—It will be interesting to see what wrinkles new offensive coordinator Dan Werner adds to the Miami attack. He replaces Rob Chudzinski, who moved on to work with former Hurricanes boss Butch Davis with the Cleveland Browns. Werner coached the quarterbacks for three years under coach Larry Coker and will not alter the passing game much. His biggest challenge will be crafting a ground-game complement that can challenge opposing defenses. Once Gore went down last year, the Miami offense sputtered.

After sitting back in a vanilla cover 2 defense and relying on pure talent in 2002, Miami was far more aggressive with its schemes last season. Coach Randy Shannon is a young, bright light who will have to rebuild parts of the defense but has the know-how to get it done.

Style—Coker is an interesting guy. He's a quiet type who doesn't draw attention to himself, but does have considerable passion—and relates well to the talented athletes Miami attracts. Case in point: When he

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	TSN pick
Sept. 6	Florida State	L
Sept. 18	Louisiana Tech	W
Sept. 23	at Houston	W
Oct. 2	at Georgia Tech	W
Oct. 14	Louisville	W
Oct. 23	at N.C. State	W
Oct. 30	at North Carolina	W
Nov. 6	Clemson	W
Nov. 13	at Virginia	L
Nov. 20	Wake Forest	W
Dec. 4	Virginia Tech	W

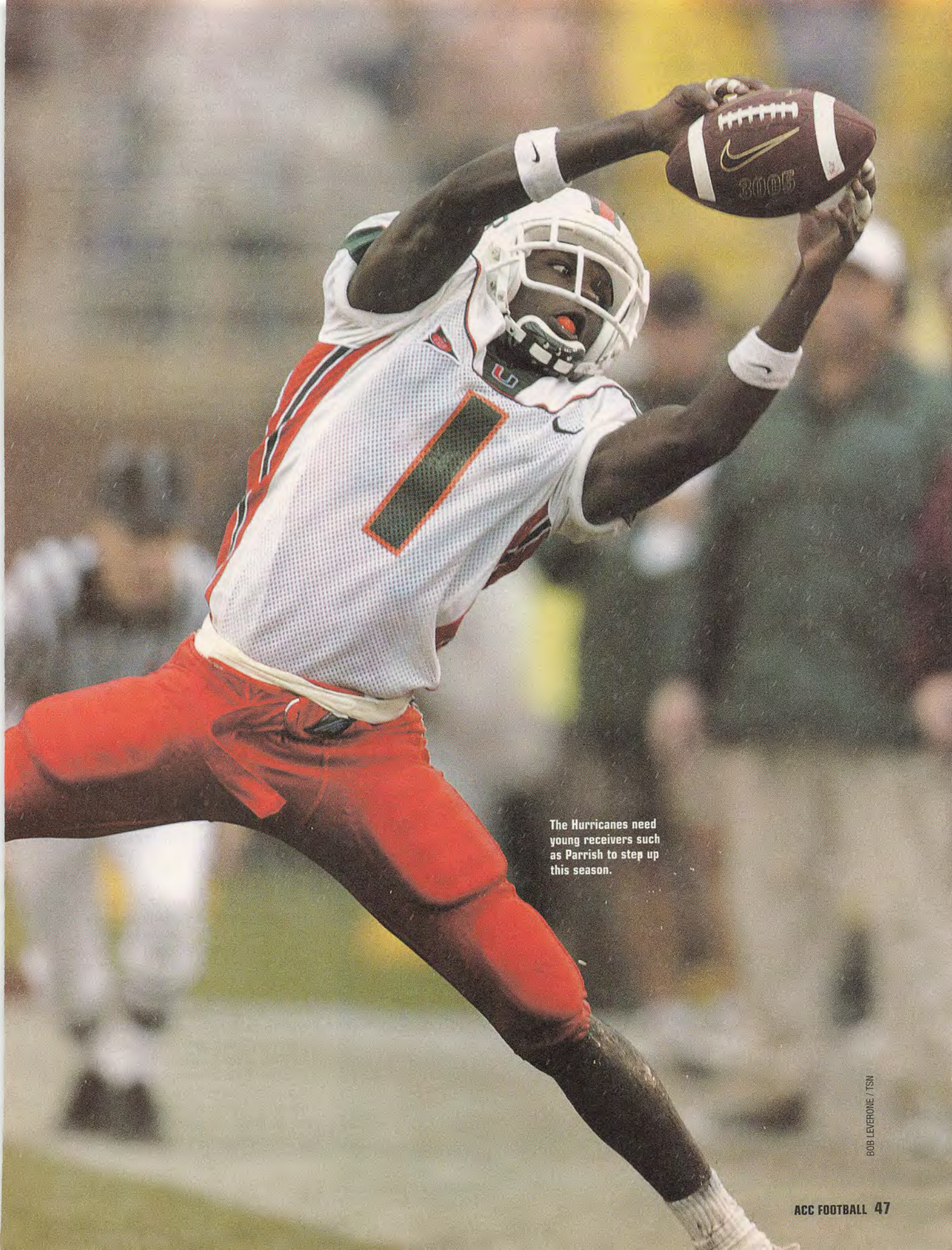
Strength of schedule rank
Conference: 1
Nation: 10

GAME OF THE YEAR

The Hurricanes and Seminoles hook up on Labor Day night, playing for the third time in less than a year. For the first time ever, this one has significance beyond Sunshine State bragging rights. The teams are in the same league, so the first step toward a conference title will be taken that night. It's hard to imagine this rivalry needing anything more, but Miami's new ACC affiliation will pump things up.

The Hurricanes play six home games—including nonconference battles against Louisiana Tech and Louisville—and get Florida State, Clemson and Virginia Tech at the Orange Bowl. Miami's schedule softens briefly after its opener against the Seminoles, but October brings ACC trips to Georgia Tech, N.C. State and North Carolina. A trip to Virginia looms as the only road game after Halloween. Miami gets two weeks off before a season-ending date with the Hokies. The Hurricanes plays three non-Saturday games—on Monday against FSU and on Thursdays against Houston and Louisville.

More on Miami at foxsports.com/named/FS/CFB/teams



The Hurricanes need young receivers such as Parrish to step up this season.

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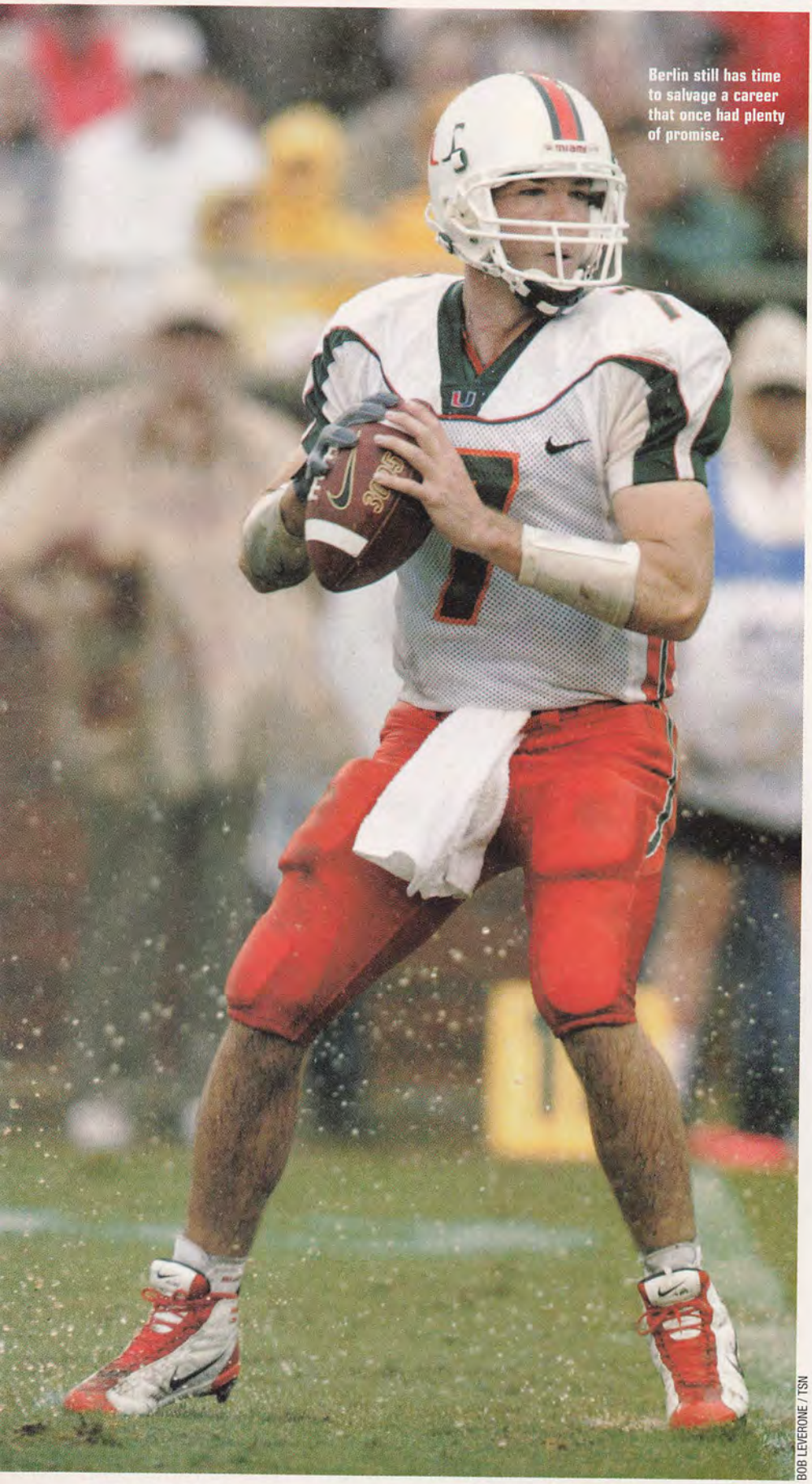


Berlin still has time to salvage a career that once had plenty of promise.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

went to pick up high school standout Willie Williams for his official visit to Miami, Coker showed up in a fully loaded Cadillac Escalade, showing he has flair to offset his all-business reputation. Coker does not tolerate disciplinary breaches, but he makes football fun for the players.

OFFENSE

Quarterbacks—Last season was not a great one for Berlin. Instead of parlaying his tremendous second-half success in a come-from-behind victory over Florida into a dream season, he faltered badly as the campaign wore on and, by the end of the year, was major fodder for critics. Berlin returns for his senior season and was listed as No. 1 on the depth chart after a strong spring, but no one is buying that kind of security. Berlin is at risk. He might succumb to Crudup; more likely is the loss of his starting job to Wright, a 6-5 Californian who shined during his redshirt season and appears to have everything necessary to be a standout.

Problem is, Wright doesn't have experience. Berlin completed 59.9 percent of 352 passes for 2,419 yards last year, which isn't bad. Trouble was, he trumped his 12 TD passes with 17 interceptions. Truth be told, it wasn't all his fault. When Gore went down, the running game took a big hit. And his Miami receivers were not big-play threats.

But Berlin was inconsistent, and he'll have to show plenty during preseason drills to win

An ACC coach says...

I thought **Brock Berlin** was going to be good enough, but boy was I wrong. Early in the year, he did some things that looked good, but after the Virginia Tech game, it was over. If he had played halfway decently, they would have beaten Virginia Tech and probably Tennessee. ... I think **Frank Gore** is a great running back. He has good movement and reminds you a little of Emmitt Smith. He takes those little steps and slashes. He's strong and the real deal. The big question is if he can come back again from injury. That's awfully tough. ... None of their receivers jumped out at you last year. It wasn't the same as in years past, when they always had a standout. ... They lost a lot on defense, but somebody always steps up. Their talent level across the board is still ridiculous. ... They took a big hit at linebacker. How do you replace great players like Jonathan Vilma and D.J. Williams? That's going to be a problem. ... Up front, I think **Orien Harris** is really good. He'll be their next great tackle. **Antrel Rolle** should have left for the NFL, too. He's so big and still can run with receivers. He's a first-round NFL pick. ... They changed their overall scheme a lot last year. They weren't just sitting in that cover 2. They started blitzing a lot more and were using man coverage. They did some fire zones and didn't let their talent take over. They were a lot more multiple. I think that will continue.

the confidence of Coker and Werner, not to mention Miami fans. Crudup is more mobile than Berlin, but he wasn't overly impressive in his time as a regular. If Wright shows he can handle the heat, he will get the job.

Running backs—Gore tore knee ligaments for the second time in his Miami career, and though he is expected to be healthy for 2004, many wonder whether he will be able to regain the burst that made him such a dangerous back during the first five games of last season. There's only so much a body can take. If healthy, Gore's mixture of speed and power can wear down defenses.

If Gore isn't ready for full-time duty, the Hurricanes will turn to sophomore Tyrone Moss, who averaged 4.8 yards per carry, scored five times and totaled 511 yards last season. Moss has some Gore-like qualities and could bust loose, particularly behind what should be a great offensive line.

Quadtrine Hill returns at fullback with the goal of reaching double figures in carries this year. Don't bet on it. He will, however, probably catch 10-15 passes. Depth at tailback must come from the youngsters, among them true freshmen Bobby Washington, Andrew Johnson and Charlie Jones.

Receivers—"The Chosen One" is gone, leaving Miami without its top receiver from last year. Kellen Winslow Jr. caught 60 passes but scored just once. He will be missed for the pressure he put on opposing defensive coordinators, but his off-field antics and proclamations often were distractions. Problem is, the remaining players have track records that don't indicate they are ready to become standouts. That's not good news.

Ryan Moore, who caught 44 passes and averaged 14.5 yards last season, missed spring practice because of a shoulder injury but should be fine by September. Roscoe Parrish is a solid possession man trying to come back after a second knee surgery. Sophomore Akieem Jolla has potential. So does Darnell Jenkins, another sophomore. The incoming class includes plenty of tall candidates, with 6-3 Cedric Hill, 6-4 Lance Leggett and 6-3 Khalil Jones all expected to make impacts at some point.

Senior Kevin Everett, who caught nine passes and scored three times, is a big target at tight end, while junior Buck Ortega, a high school quarterback who has played linebacker and receiver at Miami, is more of a speed type at the position. A coming attraction is Greg Olsen, a 6-6 redshirt freshman.

Line—With the skill position talent Miami attracts, people often overlook their offensive front. But there are plenty of stars on that unit, too. This year's budding All-American is junior left tackle Eric Winston, who moved into the starting lineup last season and was dominant. Another year like that, and he'll be off to the NFL early.

Two other starters return—center Joel Rodriguez and right guard Chris Myers, both seniors. Myers is a relatively unheralded two-year starter who has been a steady force inside. Rodriguez started 10

NICKEL PACKAGE

Five things to look for

1 Brock Berlin has the edge in the quarterback derby going into the opener against Florida State, but he must be more consistent. If not, it will be redshirt freshman Kyle Wright's job.

2 Miami is banking on Frank Gore to come back from knee surgery and run wild, but there are no guarantees. Someone else will step up.

3 The Hurricanes will be dominant on both lines, as everyone has come to expect. Keep an eye on defensive tackle Orien Harris, who could be ready for a Warren Sapp-like season.

4 The linebackers, minus three starters, could provide a serious obstacle to success. Miami will have to rely heavily on unproven players.

5 New conference, same success. Miami takes a step up in competition but won't suffer much, if at all. One reality: The FSU game now counts in the conference standings.

QUICK HITS

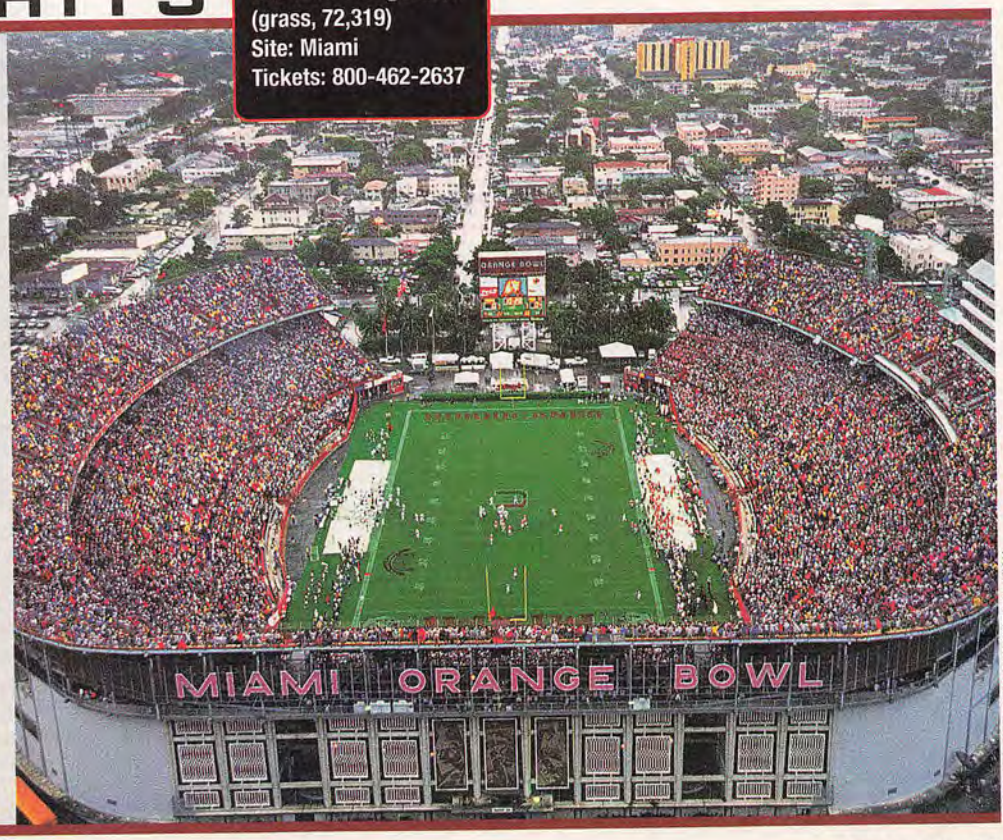
COACHING STAFF

Head coach: Larry Coker (35-3, 3 years)
Assistant head coach/offensive line: Art Kehoe (4th year, 20th overall)
Offensive coordinator/quarterbacks: Dan Werner (1st year, 7th overall)
Defensive coordinator: Randy Shannon (4th year, 11th overall)
Tight ends: Mario Cristobal (1st year, 4th overall)
Linebackers: Vernon Hargreaves (7th year)
Wide receivers: Curtis Johnson (9th year)
Defensive line: Greg Mark (10th year)
Running backs/special teams: Don Soldinger (4th year, 16th overall)
Strength and conditioning: Andreu Swasey (4th year)
Defensive backs: Tim Walton (1st year)

FORMATIONS AND FIGURES

Offensive scheme: Pro set
Defensive scheme: 4-3 multiple
Last league title won: 2003 (tie)
Last time didn't go to a bowl: 1997
2003 TSN preseason rank: 5
2003 record: 11-2 (beat Florida State in Orange Bowl); Big East: 6-1/T1st
Website: www.hurricanesports.com

Stadium: Orange Bowl (grass, 72,319)
Site: Miami
Tickets: 800-462-2637



UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI SPORTS INFORMATION

RECRUITING

2004 CLASS

RATINGS BY RIVALS.COM

NAME	POS.	HT./WT.	HOMETOWN/SCHOOL
★★★★★ AMONG THE NATION'S TOP 30 PROSPECTS			
Lance Leggett	WR	6-4/178	Arlington, Texas/Grace Prep
Tyler McMeans	OL	6-5/319	Scranton, Pa./Lackawanna JC (Pa.)
Willie Williams	LB	6-2/225	Miami/Carol City
★★★★ AMONG THE NATION'S TOP 200 PROSPECTS			
Rhyan Anderson	DL	6-6/245	Oak Creek, Wis./Oak Creek
James Bryant	LB	6-3/240	Reading, Pa./Reading
Calais Campbell	DL	6-7/230	Denver/South
Kirby Freeman	QB	6-3/190	Brownwood, Texas/Brownwood
Kellen Heard	OL	6-6/335	Wharton, Texas/Wharton
Dwayne Hendricks	DL	6-4/246	Millville, N.J./Millville
Andrew Johnson	RB	6-0/205	Pittsburgh/North Hills
Charlie Jones	RB	5-11/200	Homestead, Fla./South Dade
Lovon Ponder	DB	6-1/190	Miami/Monsignor Pace
Bobby Washington	RB	6-1/200	Miami/Killian
★★★ AMONG THE NATION'S TOP 600 PROSPECTS			
Carlos Armour	DB	6-3/200	Memphis/Melrose
Tyrone Byrd	OL	6-6/260	Sugar Land, Texas/Hightower
Antonio Dixon	DL	6-4/319	Miami/Washington
Rashaun Jones	DB	6-2/185	Lake City, Fla./Columbia
Joe Joseph	DL	6-4/270	Orlando/Oak Ridge
Anthony Reddick	DB	6-1/190	Fort Lauderdale, Fla./St. Thomas Aquinas
Chris Rutledge	OL	6-6/270	Miami/Dr. Krop
Derron Thomas	RB	6-0/185	Reserve, La./East St. John
Chris Zellner	ATH	6-2/225	Sarasota, Fla./Carol City
★★ SOLID DIVISION I PROSPECT			
Romeo Davis	LB	6-3/215	Miami/Northwestern
Cedric Hill	TE	6-3/206	Valdosta, Ga./Valdosta
Khalil Jones	WR	6-3/206	Miami/Northwestern
Josh Kerr	OL	6-4/275	Strongsville, Ohio/Strongsville
Jonathan St. Pierre	OL	6-3/300	Longueuil, Quebec, Canada/Vieux Academy

INSIDE DISH

Coach **Larry Coker** thinks this year's class—ranked fourth in the nation—could be among the best in the program's history. The 'Canes signed seven of the nation's top 100 players and brought in 13 prospects ranked four stars or higher. … Coker wasn't happy with the consistency of the running game last season, so he grabbed three of the nation's top 10 tailbacks and the No. 4 all-purpose back. The best of the lot are homegrown stars **Bobby Washington** and **Charlie Jones**. … The Canes always land a big-time quarterback, and this year's star is **Kirby Freeman** of Texas, a dual threat. He joined Miami for spring workouts. … Freeman will have a big-play wideout in **Lance Leggett**, the No. 4 player at his position and the No. 21 recruit overall. … The team signed the nation's fifth-best group of linebackers, highlighted by **Willie Williams**, who already sports an NFL body and skills but must overcome legal issues. **James Bryant** is another future star linebacker. … Miami signed an impressive group of defensive backs, headed by **Lovon Ponder**. … Junior college recruit **Tyler McMeans** is a massive offensive lineman. … Coaches are excited about defensive linemen **Rhyan Anderson** and **Calais Campbell**. *—Rivals.com*

times last year and is quick.

The other expected front liners have limited starting experience. Junior Tony Tella and sophomore Alex Pou will battle at left guard, while junior Rashad Butler ought to be atop the right tackle depth chart. Butler goes just 274, but his strength is deceiving and his run blocking is outstanding. He made four starts last year.

The 6-5 Tella has developed considerably since joining the Hurricanes and has tremendous potential. Look for redshirt freshman Andrew Bain, who has shown considerable potential at tackle, to join the rotation.

DEFENSE

Line—The Hurricanes lost tackle Vince Wilfork to the NFL, but there is plenty more where that came from. Look for Miami to hit opponents with a deep, versatile, highly talented front four.

Leading the way is tackle Orien Harris, a nasty sort with the quickness necessary to get into backfields. Ends Baraka Atkins, a sophomore, and Thomas Carroll, a junior, both had five sacks a year ago and are excellent blends of speed and size. Carroll sat out spring drills to rehab a shoulder injury but is expected to be ready by summer.

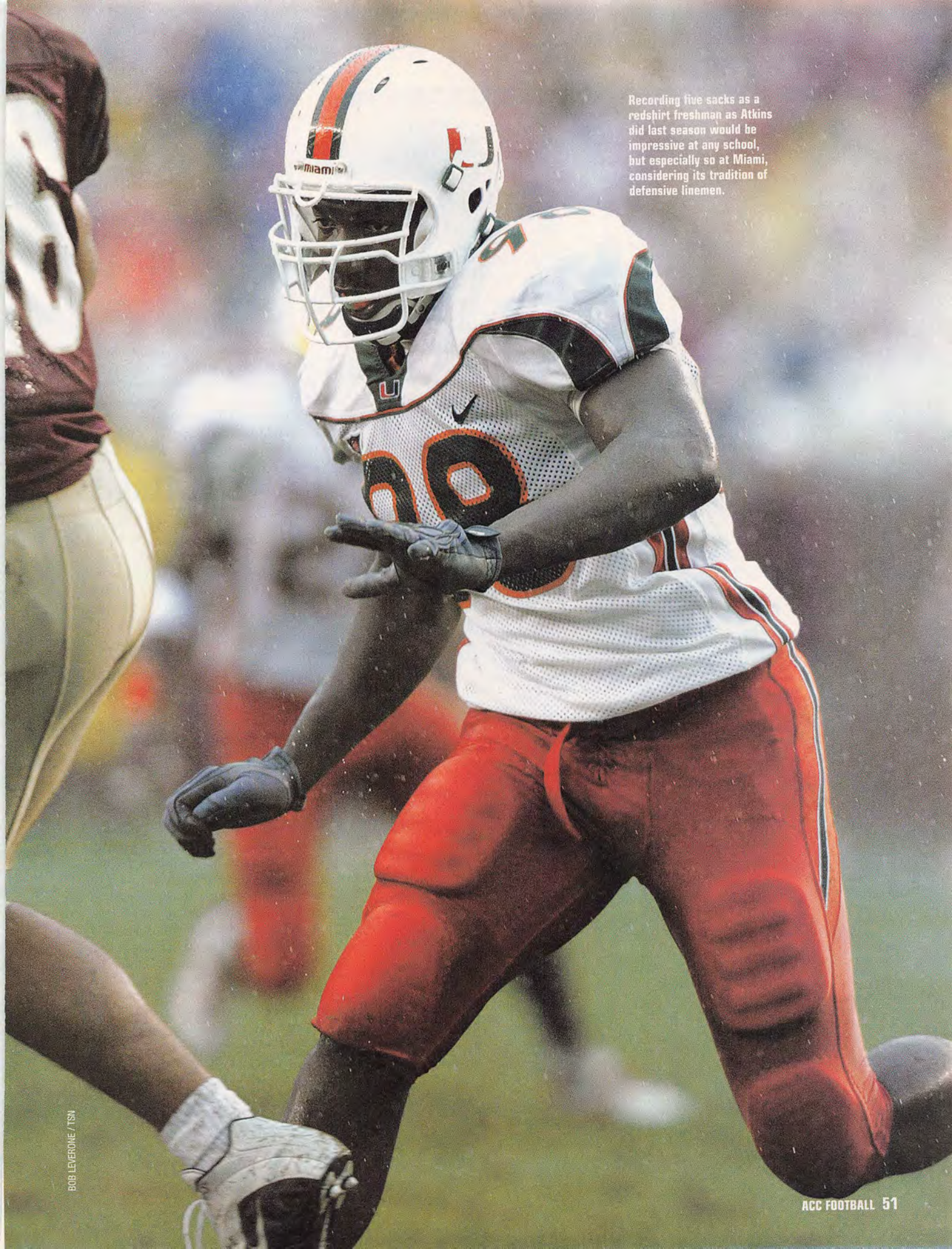
Santonio Thomas played a lot as Wilfork's backup last season and should become a force in the middle. If he doesn't, then sophomore Kareem Brown, who had four sacks last year, is ready to step in. Sophomore Bryan Pata also had four sacks during his true freshman season.

Linebackers—The Hurricanes are thin here, which is unusual. The departures of all three starters, most notably standouts Jonathan Vilma and D.J. Williams, leave huge gaps and will have Miami relying on incoming freshmen in the rotation.

Junior Roger McIntosh, who started five games two years ago and made 23 tackles last season, is the most experienced of the returnees. Look for him on the strong side. Junior Leon Williams inherits Vilma's middle spot after registering 23 tackles in 2003. Sophomore Tavares Gooden, who saw time in all 13 games as a true freshman, could start on the weak side. He brings speed and great instincts, but will have a long way to go to match Williams.

The Hurricanes hope freshman James Bryant, a physical playmaker, can provide help on the strong side. And they were counting on Willie Williams, one of the nation's most heralded recruits, to play immediately at weakside linebacker. But Williams' extensive legal troubles have left his status in doubt. It would be a major blow if he is not cleared to play.

Secondary—When one Big East coordinator heard that 6-1, 200-pound senior corner Antrel Rolle was coming back this year, he exclaimed, "He should have gone to the NFL!" That's probably true, but Rolle should be applauded for his return and



Recording five sacks as a redshirt freshman as Atkins did last season would be impressive at any school, but especially so at Miami, considering its tradition of defensive linemen.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

HURRICANES ROSTER

NO.	NAME	HT./WT.	CL.	EXP.	HOMETOWN/PREVIOUS SCHOOL
			QUARTERBACKS		
7	Brock Berlin	6-1/211	Sr.	1L	Shreveport, La./University of Florida
14	Andrew Claasen	6-2/200	Fr.	RS	Lakeland, Fla./Evangel Christian
18	Derrick Crudup	6-1/205	Sr.	3L	Delray Beach, Fla./Deerfield Beach
16	Kyle Wright	6-5/197	Fr.	RS	Danville, Calif./Monte Vista
			RUNNING BACKS		
40	Kyle Cobia (FB)	6-2/235	Sr.	3L	Lakeland, Fla./Lakeland
3	Frank Gore	5-10/218	Jr.	2L	Coral Gables, Fla./Coral Gables
23	Quadtrine Hill (FB)	6-2/216	Jr.	2L	Sunrise, Fla./Piper
41	Talib Humphrey (FB)	6-2/242	Sr.	1L	Miami/NE Oklahoma JC
30	Tyrone Moss	5-10/218	So.	1L	Pompano Beach, Fla./Ely
43	Jean Volcy (FB)	5-10/210	Fr.	RS	North Miami Beach, Fla./North Miami Beach
			RECEIVERS/TIGHT ENDS		
84	Kevin Everett (TE)	6-6/240	Sr.	1L	Port Arthur, Texas/Kilgore JC
4	Devin Hester	5-11/184	So.	1L	Riviera Beach, Fla./Suncoast
8	Darnell Jenkins	5-10/174	So.	1L	Miami/Central
80	Akieem Jolla	6-4/190	So.	1L	New Orleans/St. Augustine
85	Ryan Moore	6-3/205	So.	1L	Orlando/Dr. Phillips
83	Sinorice Moss	5-8/179	Jr.	2L	Miami/Carol City
45	Greg Olsen (TE)	6-6/235	Fr.	RS	Wayne, N.J./Wayne Hills
15	Buck Ortega (TE)	6-5/210	Jr.	2L	Miami/Gulliver Prep
1	Roscoe Parrish	5-9/170	Jr.	2L	Miami/Miami Senior
37	Stanley Pasley	6-2/205	So.	SQ	Hemingway, S.C./Hemingway
86	Brandon Sebald (TE)	6-6/255	Jr.	2L	Accord, N.Y./Roundout Valley
47	Kurt Stange (TE)	6-5/215	Jr.	SQ	Chippewa Falls, Wis./Chippewa Falls
			OFFENSIVE LINEMEN		
72	Andrew Bain (T)	6-3/350	Fr.	RS	Pompano Beach, Fla./Ely
68	Adam Bates (C)	6-1/275	Fr.	RS	Edmond, Okla./Deer Creek
79	Robert Bergman (T)	6-5/293	Jr.	2L	Bakersfield, Calif./Bakersfield
64	Rashad Butler (T)	6-5/274	Jr.	2L	Palm Beach Gardens, Fla./Dwyer
65	Alex Garcia (G)	6-1/296	Sr.	1L	Miami/Columbus
66	Tyler McMeans (T)	6-5/350	Jr.	TR	Shippenville, Penn./Lackawanna
71	Derrick Morse (G)	6-5/317	Fr.	RS	Fort Myers, Fla./Estero
77	Chris Myers (G)	6-5/287	Sr.	3L	Miami/Palmetto
66	Chris Napoli (G)	6-3/275	So.	1L	Davie, Fla./St. Thomas Aquinas
63	Alex Pou (G)	6-4/280	So.	1L	Coral Gables, Fla./Coral Gables
66	John Rochford (G)	6-3/285	Fr.	RS	Linwood, N.J./Mainland Regional
70	Joel Rodriguez (C)	6-3/293	Sr.	3L	Miami/Monsignor Pace
61	Tony Tella (G)	6-5/283	Jr.	2L	Houston/Madison
73	Cyrim Wimbs (T)	6-5/333	Fr.	RS	Pompano Beach, Fla./Ely
74	Eric Winston (T)	6-7/303	Jr.	2L	Midland, Texas/Lee
78	Anthony Wollschlager (C)	6-6/279	So.	1L	Ft. Lauderdale, Fla./Aquinas
			DEFENSIVE LINEMEN		
98	Baraka Atkins (E)	6-4/255	So.	1L	Sarasota, Fla./Booker
99	Kareem Brown (T)	6-5/259	So.	1L	Miami/Norland
90	Thomas Carroll (E)	6-5/230	Jr.	2L	Lakewood, N.J./Lakewood
47	Vegas Franklin (E)	6-3/232	Fr.	RS	Reserve, La./East St. John
92	Orien Harris (T)	6-4/299	Jr.	2L	Newark, Del./Newark
87	Dave Howell (T)	6-4/295	Fr.	RS	Royal Palm Beach, Fla./Royal Palm Beach
54	Teraz McCray (T)	6-0/293	Fr.	RS	Pompano Beach, Fla./Ely
91	Eric Moncur (T)	6-3/275	Fr.	RS	Miami/Carol City
57	Javon Nanton (E)	6-3/193	Jr.	1L	Miami/Miami Springs
95	Bryan Pata (E)	6-4/260	So.	1L	Miami/Central
56	Santonio Thomas (T)	6-4/314	Sr.	3L	South Bay, Fla./Glades Central
96	Alton Wright (E)	6-4/235	Sr.	1L	Houston/Kilgore JC
			LINEBACKERS		
2	Jon Beason	6-1/214	Fr.	RS	Miramar, Fla./Chaminade-Madonna Prep
55	Glenn Cook	6-1/206	Fr.	RS	Hollywood, Fla./Chaminade-Madonna Prep
52	Tavares Gooden	6-1/210	So.	1L	Ft. Lauderdale, Fla./Aquinas
50	Roger McIntosh	6-3/220	Jr.	2L	Gaffney, S.C./Gaffney
44	Leon Williams	6-4/240	Jr.	2L	Brooklyn, N.Y./Canarsie
			DEFENSIVE BACKS		
21	Travarous Bain (CB)	6-0/176	So.	1L	Miami/Northwestern
28	Willie Cooper (S)	6-1/203	Fr.	RS	St. Augustine, Fla./St. Augustine
29	Tanard Davis (CB)	6-0/183	Jr.	1L	Miami/Southridge
22	Kelly Jennings (CB)	6-0/172	Jr.	2L	Live Oak, Fla./Suwanee
24	Marcus Maxey (FS)	6-3/200	Jr.	2L	Navasota, Texas/Navasota
19	Brandon Meriweather (SS)	6-1/175	So.	1L	Apopka, Fla./Apopka
6	Antrel Rolle (CB)	6-1/200	Sr.	3L	Homestead, Fla./South Dade
31	Glenn Sharpe (CB)	5-11/174	Jr.	2L	Miami, Fla./Carol City
5	Greg Threat (FS)	6-2/190	Jr.	2L	Tallahassee, Fla./Lincoln
27	Joe Tolliver (S)	5-11/200	Fr.	RS	Miramar, Fla./Krop
20	Terrell Walden (CB)	6-0/153	Fr.	RS	Miami/Edison
			SPECIALISTS		
35	Grant Brown (P/K)	6-1/185	Fr.	HS	East Allegheny, Penn./East Allegheny
11	Matt Carter (H/P)	6-4/208	Sr.	1L	Columbus, Ohio/Academy
33	Mark Gent (K)	6-1/186	Jr.	2L	Ft. Lauderdale, Fla./Aquinas
88	Curtis Justus (LS)	6-6/220	So.	SQ	Perry, Okla./Perry
39	Brian Monroe (P)	6-2/190	So.	1L	Palm Beach Gardens, Fla./Gardens
13	Jon Peattie (K/P)	6-3/200	So.	1L	Clearwater, Fla./Countryside
30	Francesco Zampogna (K/P)	5-9/180	Fr.	RS	Naples, Fla./Naples

opponents should be ready to limit their game plans out of respect for his talents. Rolle is a tremendous blend of size and speed; opponents will not throw his way.

The other corner should be junior Kelly Jennings, who started five games last year and was a fixture on the 2002 squad. He's not as big as Rolle, but he has good speed. The backup pickings are slim. Junior Tanard Davis saw limited action in four games, and redshirt freshman Terrell Walden has great physical tools but likely will miss the season after injuring a knee in the spring. Junior Glenn Sharpe played in seven games but is coming back from a knee injury that could limit his substantial coverage abilities.

The safeties will be new starters, though both have experience and talent. Out are standout Sean Taylor and reliable veteran Maurice Sikes; in are sophomore Brandon Meriweather and junior Greg Threat. Coaches expect Meriweather to become an outstanding free safety, while Threat has the speed and strength to excel at strong safety.

SPECIAL TEAMS

This area is a definite strength. Everybody of consequence is back, giving Miami one of the nation's most complete specialty units. The only facet that could use a boost is the punting game. Sophomore Brian Monroe averaged just 35.7 yards per boot last season. If he doesn't improve, he could lose his job to sophomore placement man Jon Peattie.

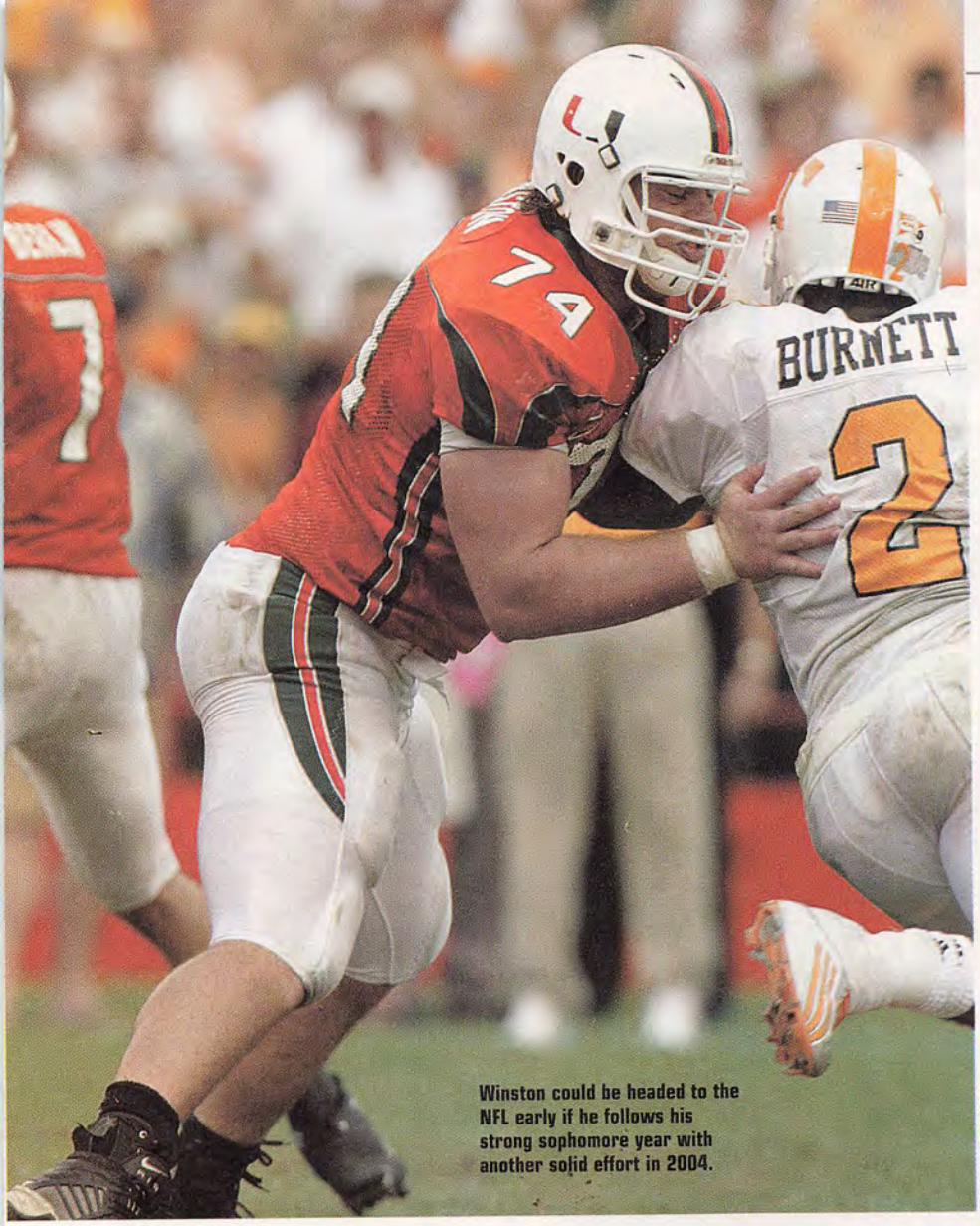
Everything else is great. Peattie was All-Big East last year after connecting on 22 of 28 field goal tries. Parrish averaged 10.4 yards on punt returns, and Devin Hester averaged 28.7 yards every time he brought back a kick. Rolle is another dangerous return man. And the Hurricanes coverage units are, as usual, outstanding.

BOTTOM LINE

Miami not only is well-suited for ACC contention, but ready to make waves on the national scene as well. Sure, there is uncertainty at quarterback, the need for reinforcements at linebacker, questions about playmakers at receiver and running back and another exodus of talent to the NFL. But this is Miami we're talking about, and the 'Canes have plenty of talent in the pipeline.

The big question centers on the step up in competition. Miami certainly will win in the ACC, but this conference does not offer the breather games that dotted their Big East schedule. Miami will be tested almost every week, and that might have impact down the line. Still, nine wins almost are guaranteed; if the backfield situation sorts itself out, a lofty BCS number awaits. **TSN**

Michael Bradley is a free-lance writer based in Philadelphia.



Winston could be headed to the NFL early if he follows his strong sophomore year with another solid effort in 2004.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

2003 RESULTS

at Louisiana Tech	W, 48-9
Florida	W, 38-33
East Carolina	W, 38-3
at Boston College	W, 33-14
West Virginia	W, 22-20
at Florida State	W, 22-14
Temple	W, 52-14
at Virginia Tech	L, 31-7
Tennessee	L, 10-6
Syracuse	W, 17-10
Rutgers	W, 34-10
at Pittsburgh	W, 28-14
*Florida State	W, 16-14

*Orange Bowl

STATISTICAL LEADERS

Rushing	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Jarrett Payton	182	985	5.4	7
Tyrone Moss	**107**	**511**	**4.8**	**5**
Frank Gore	**89**	**468**	**5.3**	**4**

Passing	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Int.
Brock Berlin	**352**	**211**	**59.9**	**2,419**	**12**	**17**
Derrick Crudup	**57**	**34**	**59.6**	**377**	**3**	**3**

Receiving	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Kellen Winslow	60	605	10.1	1
Ryan Moore	**44**	**637**	**14.5**	**3**
Roscoe Parrish	**24**	**322**	**13.4**	**2**
Jason Geathers	23	277	12.0	3

Kicking	XPM	XPA	FGM	FGA	Pts.
Jon Peattie	**37**	**37**	**22**	**28**	**103**
Mark Gent	**2**	**2**	—	—	**2**

Tackles	Solo	Assists	Total	TFL/Yds.
Jonathan Vilma	81	46	127	12.0/-27
D.J. Williams	44	38	82	8.0/-41
Sean Taylor	57	20	77	7.0/-21
Vince Wilfork	31	33	64	11.5/-41

SACKS: Javon Nanton (8.0)
INTERCEPTIONS: Taylor (10)

Returning players in bold

Team	Avg.	Rank
Rushing offense:	179.8	5th Big East/33rd nation
Rushing defense:	116.6	1st/21st
Passing offense:	215.1	5th/63rd
Passing defense:	140.9	1st/1st
Total offense:	394.9	4th/41st
Total defense:	257.5	1st/2nd
Turnover margin:	-.31	7th/77th

KEY LOSSES

Offense

WR Kevin Beard (19 rec., 249 yards, 1 TD); LG Vernon Carey; WR Jason Geathers (23 rec., 277 yards, 3 TDs); RT Carlos Joseph; RB Jarrett Payton (182 carries, 985 yards, 7 TDs); TE Kellen Winslow (60 rec., 605 yards, 1 TD).

Defense

LCB Alfonso Marshall; SLB Darrell McClover; SS Mo Sikes; FS Sean Taylor (77 tackles); MLB Jonathan Vilma (team-leading 127 tackles, 12 tackles for loss); T Vince Wilfork; WLB D.J. Williams (82 tackles, 8 tackles for loss).

THREE ON THE RISE

RB Tyrone Moss. With no guarantee Frank Gore will return after his latest knee surgery, Moss could be the Hurricanes' best hope for a ground game. The speedy 5-10 sophomore was challenged by coaches during spring drills to work harder and take his role more seriously. He was solid last year as a freshman, but it's imperative he performs at a higher level in 2004.

SS Greg Threat. Like Leon Williams, Threat will have to replace a star—Sean Taylor. Threat should be strong in Miami's cover 2 scheme. But he also has the pressure of replacing a big-play machine who intercepted 10 passes and returned three for touchdowns last year.

ILB Leon Williams. No pressure here. All Williams has to do is replace the heart of the Miami defense, Jonathan Vilma. The Hurricanes have a great front four, so he will get chances to make plenty of tackles. Williams, who showed flashes last season, came to Miami as one of the most heralded recruits of the 2001 class.

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

Offense		Defense	
WR	Roscoe Parrish	**E**	Thomas Carroll*
	Darnell Jenkins		Bryan Pata
LT	Eric Winston*	**T**	Orien Harris*
	Andrew Bain		Kareem Brown
LG	Tony Tella	**T**	Santonio Thomas
	Derrick Morse		Teraz McCray
C	Joel Rodriguez*	**E**	Baraka Atkins*
	Anthony Wollschlager		Javon Nanton
RG	Chris Myers*	**WLB**	Tavares Gooden
	Alex Pou		Willie Williams
RT	Rashad Butler	**ILB**	Leon Williams
	Robert Bergman		Jon Beason
TE	Kevin Everett	**SLB**	Roger McIntosh
	Greg Olsen		Glenn Cook
WR	Ryan Moore*	**CB**	Antrel Rolle*
	Sinorice Moss		Tanard Davis
QB	Brock Berlin*	**SS**	Greg Threat
	Derrick Crudup		Joe Tolliver
RB	Frank Gore	**FS**	Brandon Meriweather
	Tyrone Moss		Marcus Maxey
FB	Quadtrine Hill	**CB**	Kelly Jennings
	Kyle Cobia		Travarous Bain
K	Jon Peattie*	**P**	Brian Monroe*
KR	Roscoe Parrish	**PR**	Roscoe Parrish

* Returning starter

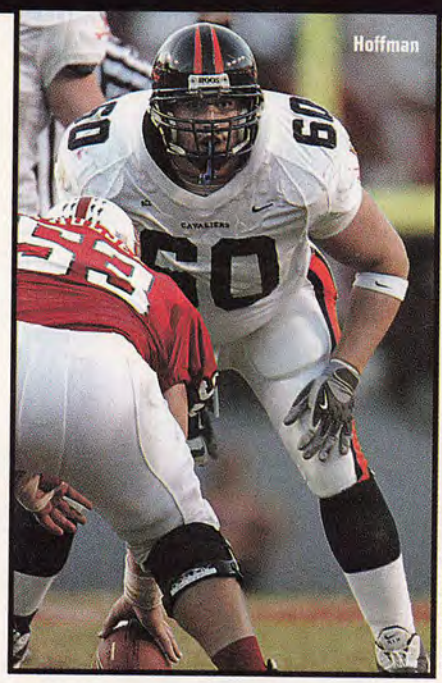
VIRGINIA CAVALIERS

Projected finish: 8-3 5-3/3rd in conference

By Doug Doughty

Virginia went to the Continental Tire Bowl after each of the past two seasons and had good experiences, taking more than 20,000 fans on both occasions and beating West Virginia and Pittsburgh. But the Cavaliers shouldn't want to make a habit of going to the bowl that is fifth in line for ACC teams.

Coach Al Groh's first recruits are entering their fourth year, and Groh has targeted 2004 as the season when the program will begin to peak; everything is in place, with one notable exception. The Cavaliers must find a quarterback to replace Matt Schaub, who passed for more than 7,500 yards in his UVa career. Schaub was one of nine players who completed their eligibility, including five starters. Other than Schaub, the hardest to replace will be Almondo Curry and Jamaine Winborne, modestly talented defensive backs who had a knack for big plays. An 8-5 record in 2003 fell a half-game short of the Cavaliers' 9-5 in 2002, but Virginia ranked 80th in total offense and 100th in total defense in 2002. This past season, Virginia was 55th and 67th, respectively, in those categories—still not great but an improvement. Two of last year's five senior starters will be replaced by 2002 starters who missed the 2003 season because of injury, wide receiver Michael McGrew and fullback Jason Snelling.



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SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	TSN pick
Sept. 4	at Temple	W
Sept. 11	North Carolina	W
Sept. 18	Akron	W
Sept. 25	Syracuse	W
Oct. 7	Clemson	W
Oct. 16	at Florida State	L
Oct. 23	at Duke	W
Nov. 6	Maryland	W
Nov. 13	Miami	W
Nov. 20	at Georgia Tech	L
Nov. 27	at Virginia Tech	L

Strength of schedule rank
Conference: 8
Nation: 40

GAME OF THE YEAR

Virginia should be 6-1 when Maryland comes to Charlottesville. The rivalry has increased in intensity since UVa coach Al Groh and the Terps' Ralph Friedgen arrived at their alma maters in 2001. Last year, Groh and Maryland recruiting coordinator James Franklin had words and pointed fingers at each other before kickoff. Virginia wants to enhance its credibility after losing several recruiting battles to Maryland this past winter.

Virginia declined to follow some teams and add a seventh home game, particularly because the Cavaliers need to go to Syracuse in 2005 and didn't want to be in a position to play six road games that season. Negotiations broke down with UTEP, so UVa added Temple, which doesn't have much of a home-field advantage. With the exception of a game at Florida State, UVa will not play in a hostile environment until it goes to Georgia Tech in Week 10. Season-ending road games with the two Techs—Georgia and Virginia—will test UVa's bid to gain late-season momentum for the third year in a row.

COACHING

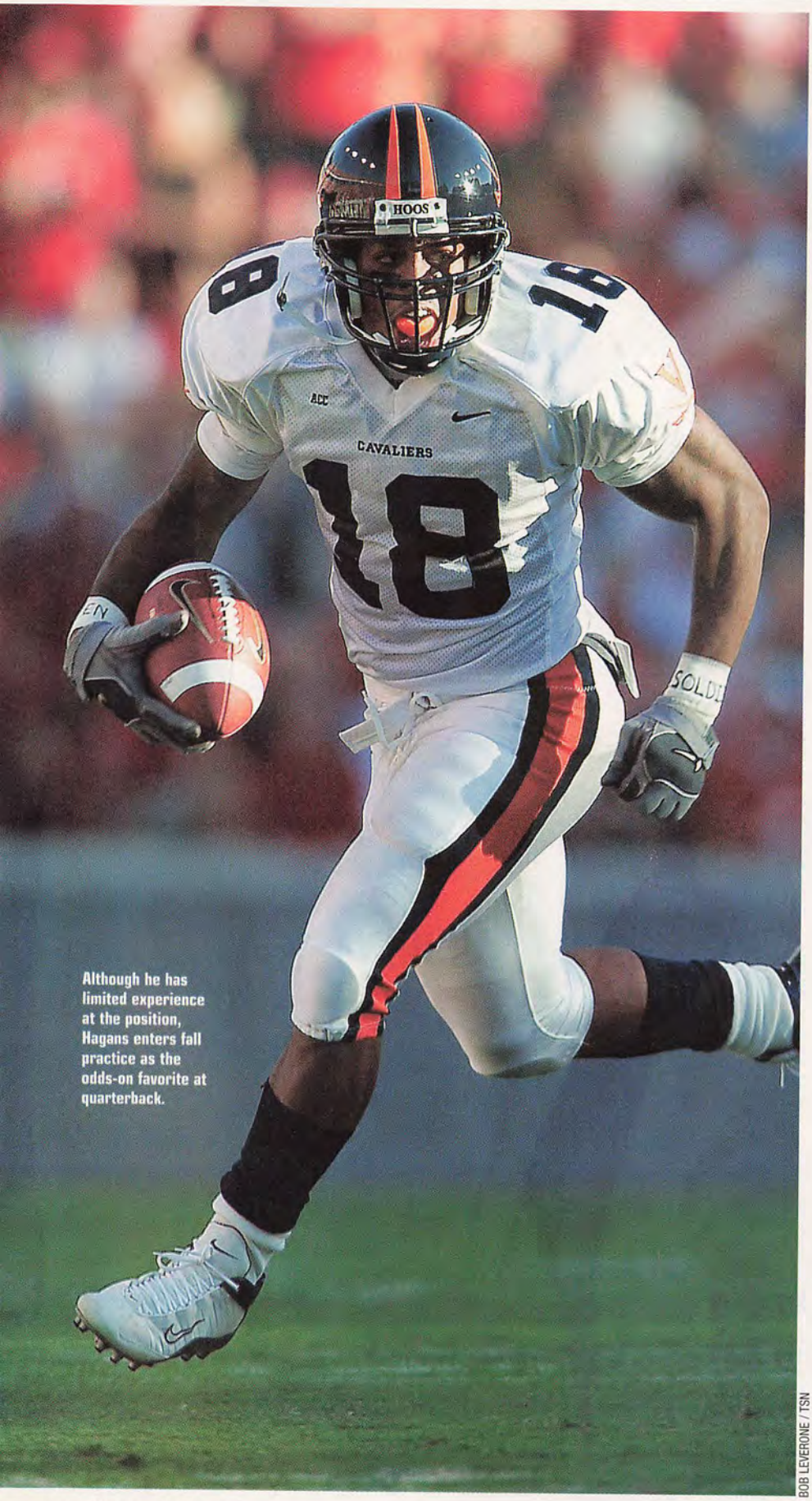
Strategies—The transition from former offensive coordinator Bill Musgrave to Ron Prince was the subject of considerable conversation entering last season. Groh said the offense would not change significantly because of Musgrave's departure, and it didn't. The Cavaliers continued to throw the ball extensively to their tight ends and running backs, managing to stretch defenses despite the absence of a bona fide deep threat and without a go-to wide receiver. Don't be surprised if the Cavaliers employ more of a power game this season, not because of a change in philosophy but because of Groh's desire to move the ball more consistently in bad weather. Prince was solid last season. He calls plays in concert with Groh's son, quarterbacks coach Mike Groh. There were few variations in the playbook when Prince took over, and there was plenty of variety in the Prince/Groh calls.

The defense has made steady improvement under coordinator Al Golden, who uses the 3-4 scheme that Al Groh favored from his days as a head coach, defensive coordinator and linebackers coach in the NFL. UVa has many variations to its 3-4, making frequent use of nickel and dime packages in obvious passing situations. Groh prides himself on being a linebackers

More on Virginia at foxsports.com/named/FS/CFB/teams

Hamstring injuries have limited Lundy's effectiveness, but he rushed for 929 yards last season.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN



Although he has limited experience at the position, Hagans enters fall practice as the odds-on favorite at quarterback.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

guru and a hands-on coach, but Golden is entering his fourth year in the system and doesn't require as much oversight.

Style—You won't find Groh ducking out the door at 4 p.m. to get in a quick nine holes of golf. Rather, you're more likely to find him with his nose buried in one of many 4-inch thick binders in his office, pouring over plays, schemes and old practice schedules in search of perfection. Every detail matters, and there's no doubting who is the lead wolf in this pack. In short, Groh is Virginia football, to the extent he doesn't permit his assistant coaches to conduct interviews. He doesn't like surprises and is aware of every last detail, from the team's defensive plan down to the color of the players' shoelaces.

Much of Groh's style was learned at the feet of Bill Parcells. So, it's no surprise to see Groh grab a fist full of a player's jersey during a practice and "do some coaching." Or, he can flash a steely stare to melt a player and get him in line.

OFFENSE

Quarterbacks—An early season injury to Schaub proved costly in a 31-7 loss to South Carolina, but two games without him enabled the Cavaliers to get a clearer view of their quarterbacking future. An ineffective Anthony Martinez gave way to Marques Hagans, who was masterful in a 59-16 victory at Western Michigan. Hagans

An ACC coach says...

They have a lot of talent at running back. **Wali Lundy** is big and fast. He is dangerous because he can return kicks, and he catches the ball out of the backfield. He's good on their staple play, the power off-tackle run. You never know where he's going to be because they move him around so much. ... Their system made Matt Schaub better than he was. Their system keeps the quarterback out of trouble. They're a great screen team, and they use short, accurate passes and play action. It's as close to the true West Coast offense as there is in the ACC. It's just like what the 49ers run. But that takes some maturity at quarterback. I don't think they have anybody who's going to come out of the blocks as well as Schaub did last year. ... **Darryl Blackstock** can really play at linebacker. He runs well and can rush the passer well from the outside. I think **Ahmad Brooks** will keep getting better and better. He has a great nose for the ball. I'm not so sure about **Kai Parham**. ... They do a lot of different stuff on defense, a lot of NFL stuff. You don't see a lot of teams who can go two-gap with their defensive linemen. They can do it. You need brute force up front to do that, and they have it. Their defensive linemen aren't that fast. They're just big hammers. When you see Virginia warm up, you think they're bringing guys in from the Redskins. They are impressive physically.

continued to return punts, and he played enough in the slot to finish with 28 catches. He practiced with the quarterbacks and finished the spring as the No. 1 candidate to replace Schaub, with Notre Dame transfer Christian Olsen his most likely challenger. Olsen is a thrower. Hagans, too, has a great arm, but his escapability is what sets him apart. In limited duty, Hagans' relatively small stature (5-10, 207) has not been a liability. It would take a major resurgence for Martinez to re-enter the picture or even move ahead of redshirt freshman Kevin McCabe, a top 2003 recruit.

Running backs—Virginia's tailbacks, Wali Lundy and Alvin Pearman, combined to rush for 1,572 yards and 14 touchdowns last year, with 92 receptions. Lundy, with close to 1,800 rushing yards in two seasons, is more the workhorse type. Pearman, who underwent reconstructive knee surgery following the 2002 season, seems to have better straight-ahead speed than Lundy. Lundy has gotten the majority of the playing time when healthy, but he has been susceptible to hamstring injuries that limit his effectiveness.

Groh has spoke longingly of giving 200 carries a year to Michael Johnson, who is the fastest of UVa's running backs. Johnson could get additional playing time in the slot receiver's role filled by Hagans last year. Look for the fullback position to become more of a weapon with the return of Snelling, who had 31 receptions in 2002 as a true freshman before redshirting last season.

Receivers—If not for his relative anonymity on the national scale, Heath Miller would have received greater consideration for the Mackey Award, which goes to the nation's top tight end. Miller's 70 receptions smashed the ACC record for tight ends and earned him the distinction of being Virginia's only first-team All-ACC selection. The only question about Miller, a fourth-year junior, is whether he will leave for the NFL after this season.

The Cavaliers' inability to sign one of four or five marquee wide receivers on their recruiting list has made it imperative that McGrew return to the form that enabled him to catch a total of 58 passes in the previous two seasons. McGrew, who suffered a broken leg in preseason drills, will join fellow senior Ottowa Anderson as UVa's starting wideouts. Anderson, who gained a reputation for his blocking on the edge, had 33 receptions to rank first among the Cavaliers' returning wideouts. Deyon Williams, sure-handed but not a dependable route-runner as a freshman, offers the best deep threat.

Reserve tight ends Patrick Estes and Jon Stupar, a prize 2003 recruit, make the Cavaliers more dangerous than most teams in two-tight end situations.

Line—For two years, Virginia couldn't figure out what to do with Kevin Bailey, and it didn't know what to do without him.

NICKEL PACKAGE

Five things to look for

1. The Cavaliers must decide quickly if Marques Hagans is their quarterback for the next two seasons or a slot receiver and return specialist, roles in which he has had success.
2. Expect a more run-oriented offense with a solid offensive line and the return of running backs Wali Lundy and Alvin Pearman.
3. Tight end Heath Miller should get the national recognition that eluded him last year. He is as conscientious about his blocking as he is the more crowd-pleasing parts of his game.
4. Linebacker Ahmad Brooks will emerge as one of the top players at his position in the country. He and Darryl Blackstock will be in quarterbacks' faces all season.
5. If the Cavaliers have an Achilles' heel, it is the secondary. There are plenty of corners, but a recruit such as Nate Lyles could play early at safety.

QUICK HITS

COACHING STAFF

Head coach: Al Groh (22-17, 3 years; 48-57 overall, 9 years)
Assistant head coach/linebackers: Dan Rocco (3rd year, 4th overall)
Offensive coordinator/offensive line: Ron Prince (2nd year, 4th overall)
Defensive coordinator: Al Golden (4th year)
Tight ends/special teams: Mark D'Onofrio (1st year)
Wide receivers: John Garrett (1st year)
Quarterbacks: Mike Groh (2nd year, 4th overall)
Defensive line/recruiting coordinator: Mike London (4th year)
Running backs: Anthony Poindexter (1st year)
Defensive backs: Bob Price (8th year)

FORMATIONS AND FIGURES

Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: 3-4
Last league title won: 1995 (tie)
Last time didn't go to a bowl: 2001
2003 TSN preseason rank: 10
2003 record: 8-5 (beat Pittsburgh in Continental Tire Bowl); ACC: 4-4/T4th
Website: www.virginiasports.com

Stadium: Scott (grass, 61,500)
Site: Charlottesville, Va.
Tickets: 800-542-8821

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Bailey, the most talented holdover from the George Welsh regime, had hoped for a full recovery after suffering a torn anterior cruciate ligament early in the 2002 season, but he was not the same player when he returned in 2003—nor was he 100 percent. The Cavaliers tried Bailey at center and guard before going back to Zac Yarbrough at center. Without making first-team All-ACC, mammoth guard Elton Brown somehow managed to win the Jacobs Blocking Trophy that goes to the ACC's best offensive lineman. Even Groh would say that Brown and tackle D'Brickashaw Ferguson did not reach their considerable potential, but both were on their game during a three-game winning streak that ended the season. The other starters, guard Ian-Yates Cunningham and tackle Brad Butler, aren't bad. In fact, Cunningham showed enough promise to knock Brian Barthelmes out of the starting lineup for the last half of the season. Barthelmes now provides versatility and depth.

RECRUITING

2004 CLASS

RATINGS BY RIVALS.COM

NAME	POS.	HT./WT.	HOMETOWN/SCHOOL
★★★★★ AMONG THE NATION'S TOP 30 PROSPECTS			
None			
★★★★ AMONG THE NATION'S TOP 200 PROSPECTS			
Philip Brown	CB	5-11/188	Hampton, Va./Hargrave Military Academy (Va.)
Olu Hall	DL	6-3/220	Fairfax, Va./Robinson
Chris Long	OL/DL	6-4/265	Ivy, Va./St. Anne's-Belfield
★★★ AMONG THE NATION'S TOP 600 PROSPECTS			
Ahmad Bradshaw	TB/CB	5-10/180	Bluefield, Va./Graham
Chris Gorham	CB	6-0/175	Pottstown, Pa./Pottstown
Jon Kirchner	DE	6-4/258	Lexington, Va./Rockbridge County
Nate Lyles	DB	6-0/195	Chicago/Hubbard
Cedric Peerman	TB	5-10/185	Gladys, Va./William Campbell
Tom Santi	TE	6-5/225	Nashville/Montgomery Bell Academy
Clint Sintim	DE	6-3/250	Woodbridge, Va./Gar-Field
James Terry	FB	6-2/220	Stafford, Va./Fork Union Military Academy (Va.)
★★ SOLID DIVISION I PROSPECT			
Branden Albert	OL	6-7/310	Glen Burnie, Md./Glen Burnie
Kevin Bradley	FB/LB	6-1/220	Fayetteville, N.C./Seventy First
Devonta Brown	LB	6-2/225	Charlottesville, Va./Charlottesville
Theirrien Davis	RB/DB	5-11/182	Bowie, Md./Eleanor Roosevelt
Scott Deke	QB	6-3/207	Pacific Palisades, Calif./Loyola
Chris Gould	K/P	6-1/190	Lock Haven, Pa./Central Mountain
Jamaal Jackson	S	6-3/204	Chesapeake, Va./Deep Creek
Zak Stair	OL	6-6/280	Manassas, Va./Osbourn Park

INSIDE DISH

Al Groh has done so well recruiting his first three years that fans have come to expect top 25 classes. The Cavaliers slipped to No. 40 but did a solid job upgrading depth and talent, particularly on defense. ... There were holes left on offense, however. Receiver was an area of need, but Virginia struck out on its three main targets—Doug Dutch (Michigan), Dwayne Jarrett (Southern California) and Eddie Royal (Virginia Tech)—and failed to sign anyone at the position. ... The secondary was a major need area, and the Cavaliers signed six players to form the nation's No. 10 unit. Four-star cornerback **Philip Brown** should be an impact player as a freshman after spending a year at Hargrave Military Academy. He has tremendous coverage skills to go along with size and a nose for the ball. Fellow cornerbacks **Nate Lyles** and **Ahmad Bradshaw** were ranked No. 23 and No. 28, respectively, at their position. ... Despite heavy competition from Virginia Tech, the Cavaliers signed the state's No. 1 player for the third consecutive year. This time, it was weakside defensive end **Olu Hall**, who was the nation's No. 7 player at his position coming off a senior season in which he recorded 93 tackles and 11 sacks. He eventually will line up opposite four-star strongside defensive end **Chris Long**, who was ranked No. 6 nationally at his position. Long is the son of former NFL great Howie Long. ... Groh believes he got a steal in offensive lineman **Branden Albert**, who wasn't highly ranked but possesses a mammoth frame and athleticism that can be developed. —*Rivals.com*

DEFENSE

Line—End Chris Canty, NFL-sized at 6-7 and 280 pounds, shrugged off the injury problems that dogged him early in his career and finished last season with 104 tackles—rare for a down lineman at any level. This will be the second year that Canty, nose tackle Andrew Hoffman and end Brennan Schmidt have started together in UVa's 3-4. It was Schmidt's sack and caused fumble that dashed Pittsburgh's last hopes in the Continental Tire Bowl. Although Schmidt is not big (6-3, 269), he has become a playmaker. Hoffman, bothered by injuries the last month of 2003, was overmatched as a true freshman under Welsh in 2000 but has made steady progress after Groh redshirted him. Second-teamers Melvin Massey and Kwakou Robinson are dependable, especially Massey after spelling Hoffman late in the year.

Linebackers—When Virginia won three of its last four games in a late-2002 surge, one reason was the decision to move linebacker Rich Bedesem into the starting lineup. When Bedesem was injured early in the 2003 season, he never got his job back. That's because freshman Kai Parham, who joined classmate Ahmad Brooks in the starting lineup, was showing few ill effects from the back injury that had caused him to redshirt two years ago. Brooks, who was in prep school during the fall of 2002, enrolled at Virginia last spring semester and was a starter from Day One. Brooks had a team-high 117 tackles, including 10 for loss, and emerged as a dangerous pass rusher when UVa moved him to end in obvious pass-rush situations.

Not to be overlooked is outside linebacker Darryl Blackstock, who has 28½ tackles for loss over the past two seasons, including 16 sacks. Blackstock had to answer for a drop from 10 sacks in 2002 to six last season, but Groh says he is a more complete player. For the other spot, where three-year starter Raymond Mann completed his eligibility, possibilities include 6-6, 243-pound redshirt freshman Vince Redd. Redd was with the UVa basketball team for the last two months of the 2003-2004 season. But fifth-year senior Dennis Haley might get the first look.

Secondary—At the start of the 2003 season, Curry and Winborne were the starting corners, with Jermaine Hardy and Willie Davis at safety. When the season ended, Curry and Winborne had completed their

The consistent, relentless Schmidt had 87 tackles in each of his first two seasons.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

CAVALIERS ROSTER

NO.	NAME	HT./WT.	CL.	EXP.	HOMETOWN/PREVIOUS SCHOOL
			QUARTERBACKS		
18	Marques Hagans	5-10/207	Jr.	2L	Hampton, Va./Hampton
4	Anthony Martinez	6-3/249	So.	SQ	Montpelier, Va./Patrick Henry
13	Kevin McCabe	6-3/192	Fr.	RS	Wexford, Pa./Pine-Richland
11	Christian Olsen	6-4/220	So.	TR	Wayne, N.J./Notre Dame
			RUNNING BACKS		
32	Brandon Isaiah (FB)	6-0/227	Sr.	2L	Winston-Salem, N.C./Parkland Sr.
2	Michael Johnson	5-10/190	So.	1L	Newport News, Va./Heritage
33	Wali Lundy	6-1/212	Jr.	2L	Willingboro, N.J./Holy Cross
21	Alvin Pearman	5-10/198	Sr.	3L	Charlotte/Charlotte Country Day
38	Jason Snelling (FB)	6-1/228	So.	1L	Chester, Va./L.C. Bird
			RECEIVERS/TIGHT ENDS		
83	Ottowa Anderson	6-0/186	Sr.	3L	Norfolk, Va./Norview
19	Emmanuel Byers	5-9/175	Fr.	RS	High Point, N.C./Ragsdale
87	Patrick Estes (TE)	6-7/262	Sr.	3L	Richmond, Va./Benedictine
85	Justin Markey (TE)	6-4/236	Jr.	SQ	Montpelier, Va./Louisa County
80	Michael McGrew	6-2/200	Sr.	2L	Birmingham, Ala./Shades Valley
89	Heath Miller (TE)	6-5/254	Jr.	2L	Swords Creek, Va./Honaker
84	Fontel Mines	6-5/205	So.	1L	Richmond, Va./Hermitage
1	Ron Morton	6-1/176	So.	SQ	Hamilton, N.J./Hamilton West
88	Jonathan Stupar (TE)	6-5/246	Fr.	RS	State College, Pa./State College Area
82	Deyon Williams	6-3/185	So.	1L	Upper Marlboro, Md./Suitland
			OFFENSIVE LINEMEN		
78	Marshal Ausberry (G)	6-6/318	Fr.	RS	Springfield, Va./West Springfield
62	Brian Barthelmes (T/G)	6-7/286	Jr.	2L	Parkman, Ohio/Kenston
70	D.J. Bell (G)	6-4/306	Fr.	RS	Camden, Del./Caesar Rodney
61	Elton Brown (G)	6-6/333	Sr.	3L	Hampton, Va./Hampton
69	Brad Butler (T)	6-8/274	Jr.	1L	Lynchburg, Va./E.C. Glass
71	Braden Campbell (T)	6-5/278	Jr.	1L	Slippery Rock, Pa./Slippery Rock
77	Ian-Yates Cunningham (G)	6-6/309	So.	1L	Plano, Texas/Hebron
64	Ron Darden (G)	6-4/309	So.	SQ	Pasadena, Md./Glen Burnie
66	D'Brickashaw Ferguson (T)	6-5/265	Jr.	2L	Freeport, N.Y./Freeport
63	Jordy Lipsey (C)	6-3/272	Fr.	RS	Longwood, Fla./Lake Brantley
72	Eddie Pinigis (T)	6-7/282	Fr.	RS	Forest, Va./Jefferson Forest
74	Davon Robb (T)	6-8/259	So.	SQ	Hopewell, Va./Hopewell
79	Gordie Sammis (C/T)	6-4/292	So.	SQ	Flemington, N.J./Immaculata
76	Phillip Sims (C)	6-2/248	So.	SQ	Forest, Va./Brookville
75	Zac Yarbrough (C)	6-4/275	Sr.	3L	Winter Park, Fla./Winter Park
			DEFENSIVE LINEMEN		
94	Allen Billyk (E)	6-4/255	Fr.	RS	New Castle, Pa./New Castle
95	Chris Canty (E)	6-7/280	Sr.	3L	Charlotte/Charlotte Latin School
92	Keenan Carter (NT)	6-3/325	Fr.	RS	Dumfries, Va./Potomac Sr.
60	Andrew Hoffman (NT)	6-5/285	Sr.	2L	South Riding, Va./Park View-Sterling
99	Chris Johnson (E)	6-6/265	Fr.	RS	Charlottesville, Va./Charlottesville
54	Melvin Massey (NT)	6-2/262	Jr.	1L	Newport News, Va./Warwick
98	Kwakou Robinson (E)	6-4/327	Jr.	2L	Brooklyn, N.Y./Poly Prep Country Day
96	Brennan Schmidt (E)	6-3/269	Jr.	2L	McLean, Va./DeMatha Catholic
90	Matt Stone (E)	6-5/261	Jr.	SQ	Boca Raton, Fla/Spanish River
			LINEBACKERS		
53	Rich Bedesem	6-2/232	Sr.	3L	Holland, Pa./Council Rock
56	Darryl Blackstock	6-4/230	Jr.	2L	Newport News, Va./Heritage
34	Ahmad Brooks	6-4/249	So.	1L	Woodbridge, Va./C.D. Hylton
57	Jermaine Dias	6-3/223	Fr.	RS	Hackensack, N.J./Hackensack
50	Isaiah Ekejiuba	6-4/216	Sr.	1L	Chestnut Ridge, N.Y./Suffield Academy
45	Dennis Haley	6-1/241	Sr.	1L	Salem, Va./Salem
49	Alex Hall	5-11/227	Jr.	SQ	Corpus Christi, Texas/Mary Carroll
51	Mark Miller	6-0/214	Jr.	2L	Birmingham, Ala./Briarwood Christian
44	Kai Parham	6-3/238	So.	1L	Virginia Beach, Va./Princess Anne
55	Vince Redd	6-6/243	Fr.	RS	Elizabethton, Tenn./Elizabethton
93	Adam Rhodes	6-2/235	Jr.	SQ	Harrisonburg, Va./Harrisonburg
52	Marvin Richardson	6-4/219	Fr.	RS	East Orange, N.J./Bishop Francis
58	Jon Thompson	6-1/219	Sr.	1L	Wise, Va./J.J. Kelly
59	Bryan White	6-2/227	Sr.	3L	Knoxville, Tenn./The Webb School
76	Jason Wright (LS)	6-3/187	So.	SQ	Chantilly, Va./Thomas Jeff. H.S. Science & Tech
			DEFENSIVE BACKS		
20	Robbie Catterton (S)	6-2/185	So.	SQ	Virginia Beach, Va./Kellam
42	Lance Evans (S)	6-4/200	So.	SQ	Voorhees, N.J./Eastern
23	Tony Franklin (CB)	5-11/186	So.	1L	Cleveland/St. Peter Chanel
31	David Hale (CB)	5-7/175	Jr.	SQ	Pulaski, Va./Pulaski County
3	Marcus Hamilton (CB)	6-0/187	So.	1L	Centreville, Va./Centreville
36	Jermaine Hardy (S)	5-11/208	Sr.	3L	Roanoke, Va./William Fleming
26	Shannon Lane (CB)	6-1/185	Fr.	RS	Virginia Beach, Va./Salem
28	Brandon Lee (CB)	5-10/183	So.	SQ	Williamsburg, Va./Jamestown
22	Ben Parziale (S)	5-11/200	Fr.	RS	Forest, Va./Jefferson Forest
39	Marshall Tucker (S)	5-11/197	So.	SQ	Richmond, Va./St. Christopher's
14	Kenneth Tynes (S)	6-0/191	So.	SQ	Clifton, Va./Centreville
5	Marquis Weeks (S)	5-11/210	Sr.	3L	Berwyn, Pa./Conestoga
			SPECIALISTS		
1	Noah Greenbaum (P)	6-0/170	So.	SQ	Richmond, Va./The Collegiate School
6	Connor Hughes (K)	6-0/178	Jr.	2L	Williamsburg, Va./Lafayette
14	Andy Rippeon (K)	5-10/172	Jr.	SQ	Howerton, Va./Essex
8	Kurt Smith (K)	6-1/181	Jr.	2L	Lookout Mountain, Ga./The Baylor School

eligibility, Hardy was scheduled for surgery for a torn anterior cruciate ligament and it looked as if Davis would never play again after suffering nerve damage in Week 2 at South Carolina.

Problems at safety eventually prompted the Cavaliers to move Winborne to the position, a blessing because it created an opening for Tony Franklin, a redshirt freshman who found himself covering Heisman Trophy runner-up Larry Fitzgerald by the end of the season. Franklin moved ahead of classmate and one-time nickel back Marcus Hamilton by midseason; now Hamilton, perhaps the best pure cover corner in the program, must show the kind of toughness that will enable him to play on a regular basis.

Youngsters Lance Evans and Robbie Catterton played some at safety late in the season. If Davis does not return from his injury, UVa might have to use one of its recruits.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Kicker Connor Hughes has been virtually automatic. After going 5-for-6 on field goals as a freshman, he set a school record in 2003 by kicking 23 field goals, with the only misses coming from 40 yards against Troy State and 52 yards into the wind against Virginia Tech. In the Cavaliers' 27-24 victory against Wake Forest, Hughes kicked a career-long 53-yarder to tie the game with 1:51 left, then added a 38-yarder with 10 seconds left.

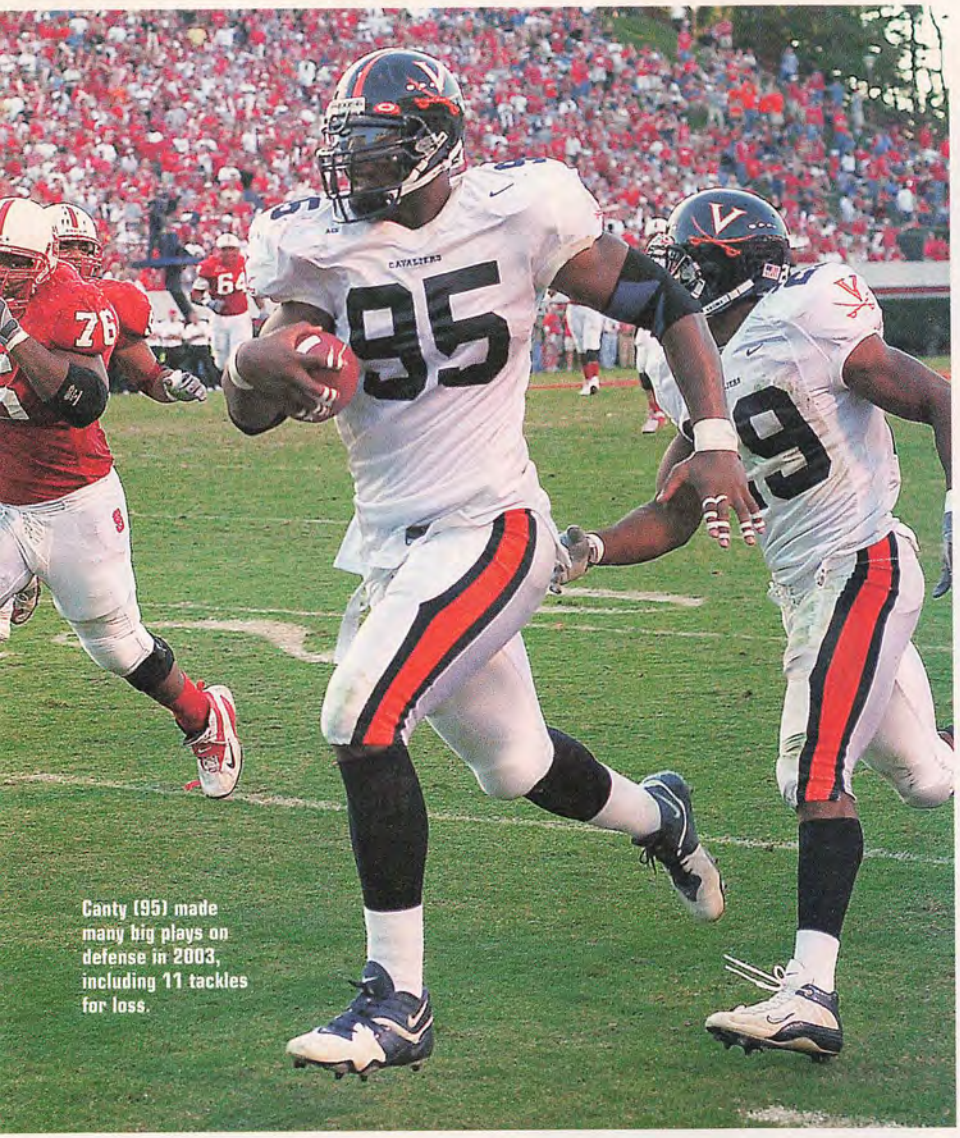
The team also has a terrific kickoff man in Kurt Smith, but the Cavaliers' punting is in need of improvement. Tom Hagan, who averaged an ACC-low 34.8 yards per kick, gave up football in the spring to concentrate on baseball. UVa has a possible successor in Sean Johnson, who is returning from a Mormon mission.

UVa has an abundance of kick returners, including Franklin and veteran Marquis Weeks on kickoffs, but new special teams coach Mark D'Onofrio might have to find a replacement for two-year punt returner Hagans if he is the quarterback.

BOTTOM LINE

Three of Virginia's four ACC losses last season came to Clemson, N.C. State and Maryland—teams that must come to Charlottesville this year. Also coming to Scott Stadium, where Virginia has won 11 of its past 12 games, is ACC newcomer Miami. There has been considerable talk about the Cavaliers moving into the top three in the league—not a huge jump considering they were fourth last year—and the home dates against other upper echelon teams should afford them the opportunity. But all bets are off if the quarterback situation isn't resolved early. **TSN**

Doug Doughty covers ACC football for the Roanoke Times.



Canty (95) made many big plays on defense in 2003, including 11 tackles for loss.

2003 RESULTS

Duke	W, 27-0
at South Carolina	L, 31-7
at Western Michigan	W, 59-16
Wake Forest	W, 27-24
at North Carolina	W, 38-13
at Clemson	L, 30-27 (OT)
Florida State	L, 19-14
Troy State	W, 24-0
at N.C. State	L, 51-37
at Maryland	L, 27-17
Georgia Tech	W, 29-17
Virginia Tech	W, 35-21
*Pittsburgh	W, 23-16

*Continental Tire Bowl

STATISTICAL LEADERS

Rushing	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Wali Lundy	**227**	**929**	**4.1**	**10**
Alvin Pearman	**134**	**643**	**4.8**	**4**
Marques Hagans	**16**	**96**	**6.0**	**2**

Passing	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Int.
Matt Schaub	403	281	69.7	2,952	18	10
Anthony Martinez	**36**	**17**	**47.2**	**136**	**1**	**2**
Marques Hagans	**26**	**17**	**65.4**	**218**	**3**	**0**

Receiving	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Heath Miller	**70**	**835**	**11.9**	**6**
Alvin Pearman	**63**	**518**	**8.2**	**4**
Ryan Sawyer	39	481	12.3	2
Ottowa Anderson	**33**	**407**	**12.3**	**2**

Kicking	XPM	XPA	FGM	FGA	Pts.
Connor Hughes	**40**	**40**	**23**	**25**	**109**
Bryan Smith	1	1	—	—	1

Tackles	Solo	Assists	Total	TFL/Yds.
Ahmad Brooks	**68**	**49**	**117**	**10.0/-46**
Chris Canty	**53**	**51**	**104**	**11.0/-40**
Jermaine Hardy	**74**	**23**	**97**	**4.0/-12**

SACKS: Darryl Blackstock (6.0)
INTERCEPTIONS: Almondo Curry (6)

Returning players in bold

Team	Avg.	Rank
Rushing offense:	130.2	8th ACC/82nd nation
Rushing defense:	161.7	7th/67th
Passing offense:	255.7	4th/32nd
Passing defense:	223.0	6th/63rd
Total offense:	385.9	6th/55th
Total defense:	384.7	6th/67th
Turnover margin:	.38	3rd/34th

KEY LOSSES

Offense

FB Kase Luzar (13 rec., 77 yards); WR Ryan Sawyer (39 rec., 481 yards, 2 TDs); QB Matt Schaub (281-of-403, 2,952 yards, 18 TDs, 10 int.).

Defense

CB Almondo Curry (60 tackles, 2 sacks, team-high 6 int.); OLB Raymond Mann (69 tackles, 4 sacks); CB/S Jamaine Winborne (69 tackles, 8 tackles for loss, 2 sacks, 2 int.).

THREE ON THE RISE

G Ian-Yates Cunningham. If Al Groh hadn't started two true freshmen in 2002, it would have been a bigger deal when Cunningham crashed the starting lineup as a true freshman at midseason last year. Cunningham, a Texan, is a relative of the late Arthur Ashe.

CB Tony Franklin. After making his first ripple as a kick returner, Franklin made a surprise entry into the starting lineup last year when Jamaine Winborne moved to safety. Now Franklin could become a fixture at cornerback. He had an interception against Virginia Tech and was part of a group that ended Larry Fitzgerald's consecutive-games touchdown streak in the Continental Tire Bowl.

RB Michael Johnson. In some evaluations of the nation's top high school running backs, Johnson rated ahead of Maurice Clarett in 2001. Johnson might be the fastest player on the team and could fill a variety of roles, including slot receiver and return specialist.

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

Offense		Defense	
WR	Ottowa Anderson*	**LE**	Brennan Schmidt*
	Deyon Williams		Kwakou Robinson
LT	D'Brickashaw Ferguson*	**NT**	Andrew Hoffman*
	Eddie Pinigis		Keenan Carter
LG	Ian-Yates Cunningham*	**RE**	Chris Canty*
	Ron Darden		Chris Johnson
C	Zac Yarbrough*	**OLB**	Darryl Blackstock*
	Gordie Sammis		Vince Redd
RG	Elton Brown*	**ILB**	Kai Parham*
	Marshal Ausberry		Rich Bedesem
RT	Brad Butler*	**ILB**	Ahmad Brooks*
	Brian Barthelmes		Bryan White
TE	Heath Miller*	**OLB**	Dennis Haley
	Patrick Estes		Jermaine Dias
WR	Michael McGrew	**LC**	Marcus Hamilton
	Fontel Mines		Shannon Lane
QB	Marques Hagans	**S**	Jermaine Hardy*
	Christian Olsen		Lance Evans
RB	Wali Lundy*	**S**	Marquis Weeks
	Alvin Pearman		Robbie Catterton
FB	Jason Snelling	**RC**	Tony Franklin*
	Brandon Isaiah		Phillip Brown
K	Connor Hughes*	**P**	Noah Greenbaum
KR	Tony Franklin*	**PR**	Michael Johnson

* Returning starter

CLEMSON TIGERS

Projected finish: 8-3 5-3/4th in conference

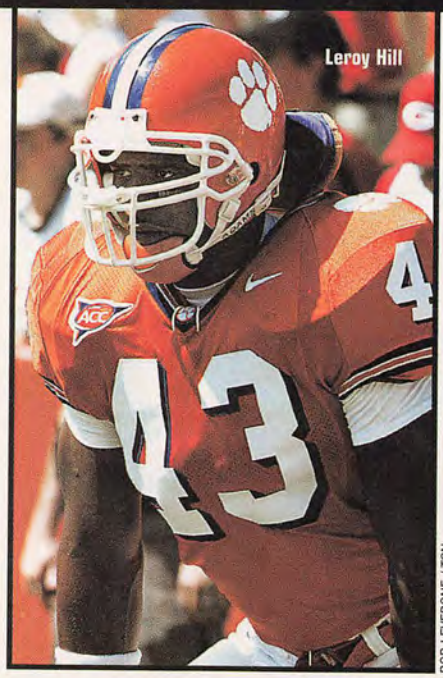
By Ken Tysiac

Tommy Bowden pulled off an escape act that would have made Houdini proud in 2003. With his firing seemingly inevitable after a 45-17 loss to Wake Forest, Bowden led Clemson to four straight victories to close the season, including wins against Florida State at Death Valley and Tennessee in the Peach Bowl. He was rewarded with a contract extension that ties him to Clemson through 2010 with unusually high buyout provisions for him and the school.

For his next trick, Bowden hopes to make the Tigers, who were 9-4 in '03, ACC title contenders. It won't be easy. Clemson visits Florida State and Miami in the expanded ACC and travels to Texas A&M for a nonconference game. And wide receiver Derrick Hamilton and defensive tackle Donnell Washington, talented players who would have been seniors in key positions, left early for the NFL.

But the Tigers have quarterback Charlie Whitehurst, a junior who will own virtually all of the school's passing records if he stays four years. Senior linebacker Leroy Hill is capable of wreaking havoc in opposing backfields on every play. An experienced secondary, with five starters returning, should prevent opponents from piling on points.

Clemson will begin the season with plenty of momentum after the great finish in '03. Because many of the other top teams in the ACC are breaking in new quarterbacks, the Tigers should be in position to aim for the top this fall.


Leroy Hill

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	TSN pick
Sept. 4	Wake Forest	W
Sept. 11	Georgia Tech	W
Sept. 18	at Texas A&M	W
Sept. 25	at Florida State	L
Oct. 7	at Virginia	L
Oct. 16	Utah State	W
Oct. 23	Maryland	W
Oct. 30	N.C. State	W
Nov. 6	at Miami	L
Nov. 13	at Duke	W
Nov. 20	South Carolina	W

Strength of schedule rank
Conference: 2
Nation: 15

GAME OF THE YEAR

The Tigers are attempting to prove they belong among the nation's elite again. They could do that in a day at the Orange Bowl. Tailback Duane Coleman of Naples, Fla., and a handful of other Floridians on the roster have been looking forward to this since the moment Miami was added to the ACC. The Tigers should have a significant advantage at quarterback with Charlie Whitehurst lining up against Brock Berlin.

Now that Miami and Virginia Tech are in the ACC, Clemson officials are trying to make future nonconference schedules easier. It's easy to see why. The Tigers don't face Virginia Tech this year but do travel to Miami and Florida State. As if that's not enough, Clemson also visits Texas A&M. The other nonconference games appear easier, as the Tigers will host Utah State and a South Carolina team they whipped on the road last year. The opener against Wake Forest is intriguing; one of Tommy Bowden's offseason goals was to find a way to defeat a Deacons team that embarrassed Clemson 45-17 last season.

COACHING

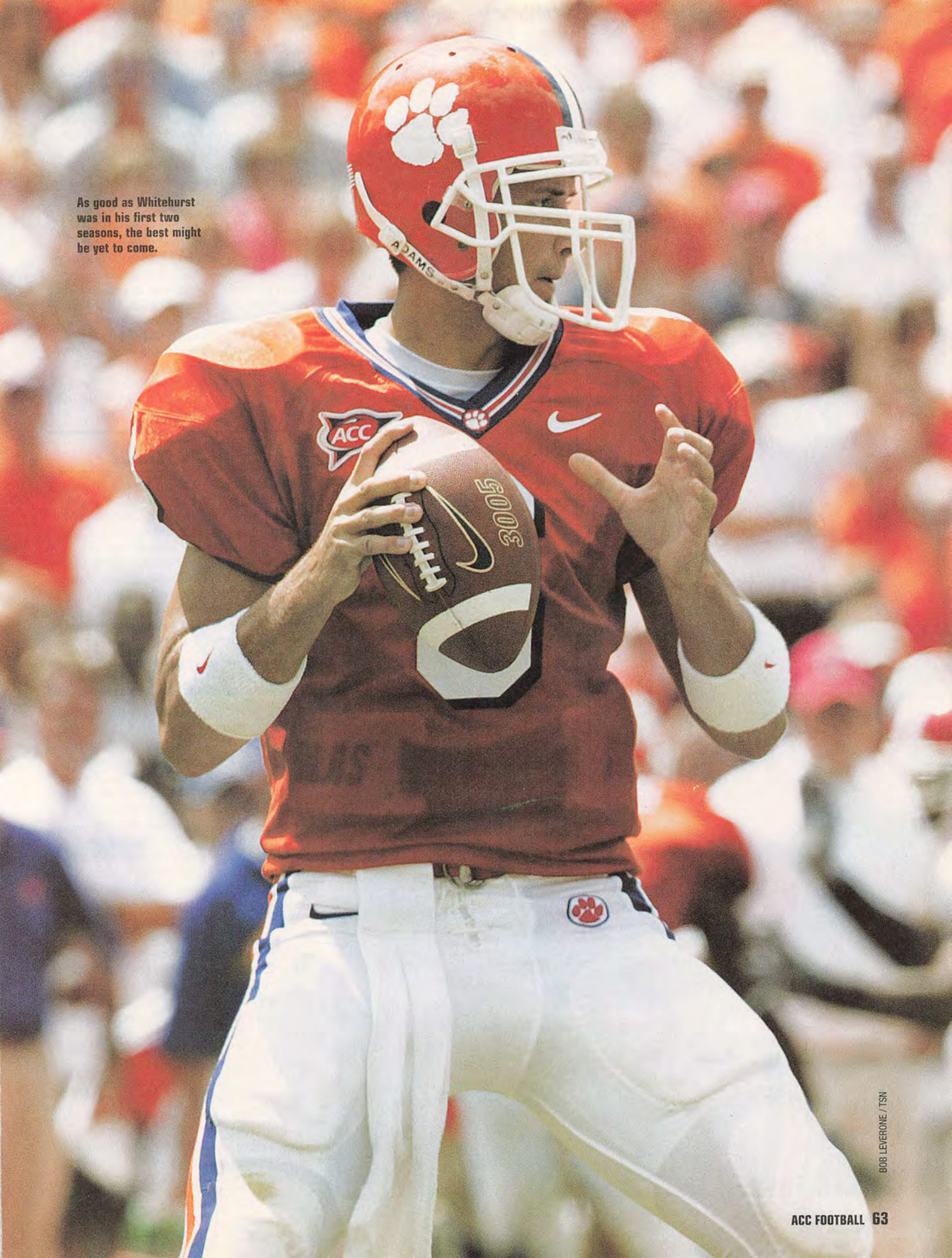
Strategies—Bowden's intimate involvement with the offense has led some to believe he doesn't care about the defense. Nothing could be further from the truth. He has said for years that the most important statistic besides turnover margin is scoring defense. He has left the details entirely to the defensive coordinator—John Lovett is entering his third season in that position—but has allowed the defense to cherry pick some of the top talent from the offense.

Senior defensive tackle Eric Coleman and defensive end Vontrell Jamison both worked as offensive linemen before settling on defense. Justin Miller wanted to play some snaps at wide receiver last season, but Lovett wanted him working solely at cornerback. Lovett got his way, and the defense began to mature late in the season, holding the last four opponents to an average of 12 points.

Bowden's offense uses a no-huddle approach to expose opponents' weaknesses. The Tigers line up, allow the coaching staff to survey the defense, then call a play from the sideline and communicate it using hand signals. Opponents sometimes steal the signals, but many times it doesn't matter because the defense isn't in position to stop the play even if it knows what is coming.

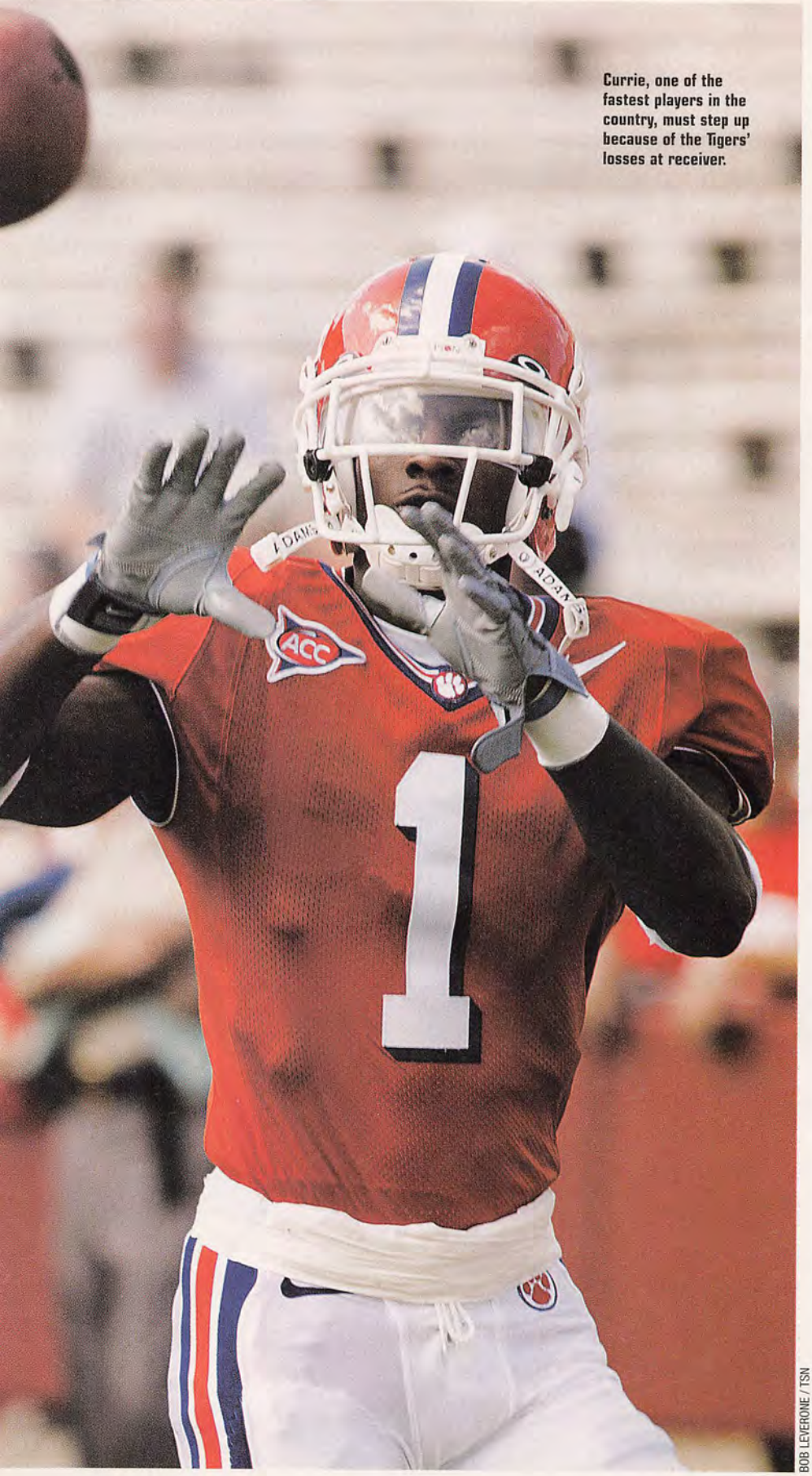
Style—Bowden studies film more than many head coaches, and taking control of the play calling last season made him a more

More on Clemson at foxsports.com/named/FS/CFB/teams



As good as Whitehurst was in his first two seasons, the best might be yet to come.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN



Currie, one of the fastest players in the country, must step up because of the Tigers' losses at receiver.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

hands-on guy with his players. That helped him develop a closer relationship with them, and that was good for everybody late last season when Bowden's job was on the line.

Lovett is a good teacher, particularly in the secondary, where cornerbacks Miller and Tye Hill have benefited from his methods. After every instruction, Lovett asks, "Do you understand me?" It's an important question many coaches fail to ask.

Mike O'Cain, the quarterbacks coach who was promoted to offensive coordinator in the offseason, has a laid-back style that helps players develop. O'Cain encourages quarterbacks to try difficult throws in practice. That way, when game time comes and the quarterback is facing heat, he knows which throws he can and can't make. Brad Scott, the former offensive coordinator who now coaches the offensive line, is a huge asset. He spoke not a word of complaint when O'Cain was given the coordinator title and is popular with players and parents.

OFFENSE

Quarterbacks—Whitehurst has a strong arm, stands tall in the pocket at 6-4 and is accurate with his throws. He completed 61.9 percent of his passes and threw for a school-record 3,561 yards last season. He also has the leadership qualities coaches crave. His father, David Whitehurst, is a former Green Bay Packers starter and helped Charlie develop excellent fundamentals.

Whitehurst's teammates respect that background and his skills, and they follow his

An ACC coach says...

Charlie Whitehurst is probably the most talented quarterback in the league. He has great size, a good delivery, and he's accurate. He has a quick release, and he can move well enough. He doesn't run all that well, but he can escape. He's a sharp kid. I think he's the next Philip Rivers in this league. ... Where they get you is by spreading you out and then letting Whitehurst and those wide receivers go to work. You have to respect that. Their offensive line doesn't have to be that great because Whitehurst gets rid of the ball, and they're not using a power running game. ... Those wide-outs are great, even though they lost a couple of them. They have plenty left. They're just playing grass basketball. They throw the ball up, and the receivers get between you and the ball. They're just boxing you out. You can't get around them or over the top of them, particularly down by the goal line. They're a vertical team. ... Early last year, they were in the I-formation, and they tried to run the ball more. But as the year went on and everybody scoped that out, they started running more one back stuff and then tossing the ball up to their big receivers. That's when they started winning. ... On defense, they are an eight-man front team. They're going to make you throw the football to beat them. But that's not easy because they do a great job disguising their coverages.

lead on and off the field. Whitehurst organizes voluntary pass skeleton drills during the offseason, awarded the game ball to Bowden following the victory over Florida State last season and chews out players who miss assignments during games.

Coaches were confident enough in sophomore Will Proctor in the spring to move 2003 backup Chansi Stuckey to wide receiver and promising redshirt freshman C.J. Gaddis to cornerback. Proctor is a dropback passer who isn't as tall or talented as Whitehurst but has made steady progress under O'Cain.

Running backs—Duane Coleman didn't post great numbers last season after sitting out 2002 as a partial qualifier. It took him half of '03 season to get accustomed to the speed of Division I football, and now he is poised for a breakthrough this season. Coleman, the leading rusher in Florida as a high school senior, has the breakaway speed Bowden has craved from his tailbacks since taking the Clemson job before the 1999 season. Coleman rushed for 615 yards on 133 carries last year and showed the ability to juke a safety and outrun the secondary as the season wore on.

Coaches were pleasantly surprised by Coleman's hands. He caught 34 passes for 309 yards and could become more of a focus in the passing game after the departure of key receiving threats Hamilton, Kevin Youngblood and Tony Elliott. Coleman's backup, Yusef Kelly, is a big, physical runner who provides a nice change of pace.

Fullback is an unusually strong position considering the Tigers' tendency to spread the field and throw the ball. Chad Jasmin, a key '03 senior, is gone, but East Tennessee State transfer Steven Jackson is a big, physical back, and Clifford Harrell is a good pass catcher who is reliable with his assignments.

Receivers—This will be a critical position. Youngblood and Elliott finished their eligibility, and Hamilton left early for the NFL; they combined for 2,483 receiving yards last season. Clemson appears to have the talent to offset the losses but is short on experience.

Senior Airese Currie is one of the fastest players in college football and is perhaps the premier deep threat in the ACC. He improved his hands last season but has been prone to injury. Sophomore Kelvin Grant was one of the most highly recruited receivers on the East Coast as a high school senior but has yet to show the discipline to become a reliable first option, though he made progress during spring drills. Junior Curtis Baham made some memorable catches as a solid fifth receiver last season but has yet to prove he can succeed in a more prominent role. Stuckey might be the most intriguing prospect of all. He has breakaway running skills rivaled only by Hamilton and Woodrow Dantzler during Bowden's tenure.

Tight end is one of the team's most solid positions. Bobby Williamson and Ben Hall both have good hands. Williamson is an excellent blocker, and Hall can be an asset in the passing game if he keeps his assignments straight.

Line—This is a nice blend of stable veter-

NICKEL PACKAGE

Five things to look for

1. The offensive line will build on its 2003 improvement with Brad Scott coaching the position. He was Florida State's line coach in the early 1990s.
2. Justin Miller needs to make big plays at cornerback. His game did not match his ego last season.
3. John Lovett has his hands full. Thielen Smith (rover/whips) and Ron West (defensive line) are coaching new positions, and their adjustments could create headaches for Lovett in his third season as coordinator.
4. Charlie Whitehurst will be a Heisman candidate. If it doesn't happen this season, it will in 2005.
5. Longtime Clemson assistant Rick Stockstill left for East Carolina in 2003. Now he is South Carolina's recruiting coordinator, and he advised Derrick Hamilton, who left Clemson early. Keep an eye on this story leading up to the South Carolina game.

QUICK HITS

COACHING STAFF

Head coach: Tommy Bowden (38-24, 5 years; 56-30 overall, 7 years)
Offensive coordinator: Mike O'Cain (1st year, 4th overall)
Defensive coordinator: John Lovett (3rd year)
Recruiting coordinator/linebackers: David Blackwell (2nd year)
Running backs: Burton Burns (6th year)
Tight ends: Jack Hines (1st year, 6th overall)
Offensive line: Brad Scott (1st year, 6th overall)
Whips/rovers: Thielen Smith (1st year, 6th overall)
Wide receivers: Dabo Swinney (2nd year)
Defensive line: Ron West (1st year, 6th overall)

FORMATIONS AND FIGURES

Offensive scheme: Spread
Defensive scheme: 4-2-5
Last league title won: 1991
Last time didn't go to a bowl: 1998
2003 TSN preseason rank: 49
2003 record: 9-4 (beat Tennessee in Peach Bowl); ACC: 5-3/3rd
Website: clemsontigers.ocsn.com

Stadium: Memorial (grass, 81,473)
Site: Clemson, S.C.
Tickets: 800-253-6766

CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

RECRUITING

2004 CLASS

RATINGS BY RIVALS.COM

NAME	POS.	HT./WT.	HOMETOWN/SCHOOL
★★★★★ AMONG THE NATION'S TOP 30 PROSPECTS			
None			
★★★★ AMONG THE NATION'S TOP 200 PROSPECTS			
Cory Lambert	OL	6-7/290	Greenville, S.C./Greenville
★★★ AMONG THE NATION'S TOP 600 PROSPECTS			
Chris Clemons	DB	6-1/180	Arcadia, Fla./DeSoto
Cory Groover	DT	6-3/282	Summit, Miss./Southwest J.C. (Miss.)
Michael Hamlin	DB	6-2/184	Lamar, S.C./Lamar
Cullen Harper	QB	6-3/200	Alpharetta, Ga./Sequoyah
Bobby Hutchinson	OL	6-4/270	Greenville, Fla./Madison County
Tribble Reese	QB	6-3/190	Birmingham, Ala./Mountain Brook
Dorrel Scott	DT	6-4/295	Columbia, S.C./Ridge View
★★ SOLID DIVISION I PROSPECT			
Durrell Barry	ATH	6-5/245	Summerville, S.C./Summerville
Brandon Croley	DB	6-0/180	Jacksonville/First Coast
Andrew Diomande	WR	6-2/185	Miami/Christopher Columbus
Elsmore Gabriel	DT	6-4/250	Brooklyn, N.Y./Christ the King
La'Donte Harris	ATH	6-0/180	Gadsden, Ala./Litchfield
Rashaad Jackson	DT	6-4/290	Union, S.C./Union
Aaron Kelly	WR	6-5/174	Marietta, Ga./Walton
Adrian Kindred	DB	6-2/198	Opelika, Ala./Opelika
Xavier Littleberry	TE/DE	6-6/240	Camden, S.C./Camden Military
Jacquez McKissic	DE	6-7/263	Opeilka, Ala./Opelika
Phillip Merling	TE	6-5/255	Cordova, Tenn./Cordova
Phillip Morris	ATH	6-3/192	Timmonsville, S.C./Timmonsville
Alex Pearson	LB	6-2/240	Greenville, S.C./Greenville
Barry Richardson	OL	6-7/330	Mt. Pleasant, S.C./Wando
Akeem Robinson	TE	6-5/259	Miami/Carol City
Taylor Tremel	OL	6-4/260	Lake Mary, Fla./Lake Mary
Courtney Vincent	LB	6-1/220	Allendale, S.C./Allendale-Fairfax
Tony Willis	OL	6-6/305	Highland Springs, Va./Highland Springs

INSIDE DISH

Clemson fans expected a better recruiting effort after the Tigers finished 9-4. But the Tigers' class ranked only 53rd in the nation. **Tommy Bowden**'s job status appeared tenuous after a 45-17 loss at Wake Forest dropped Clemson to 5-4, and that likely played a factor in the disappointing class. … Several key prospects got away, including linebacker Lawrence Timmons of Florence, S.C., who was ranked as the state's best player. He signed with Florida State. Standout wide receiver Mike McIntosh of Jacksonville committed to Clemson before signing with Florida. The Tigers signed only one four-star player, offensive lineman **Cory Lambert** of Greenville, S.C. By comparison, Florida State signed one five-star and 15 four-star players. … Lambert was rated as the nation's 13th best offensive tackle. Florida State, Georgia, Kentucky, N.C. State, South Carolina and Tennessee pushed for him. **Bobby Hutchinson** of Greenville, Fla., was another quality offensive lineman signed. … Clemson made a strong push for defensive tackles and landed four: **Dorrel Scott** of Columbia, S.C., **Rashaad Jackson** of Union, S.C., **Elsmore Gabriel** of Brooklyn, N.Y., and **Cory Groover** of Summit, Miss. Scott is the most highly ranked of the group. … Two quarterbacks were signed: **Tribble Reese** of Birmingham, Ala., and **Cullen Harper** of Alpharetta, Ga. Reese was rated as the nation's No. 15 dual-threat quarterback, and Harper was rated the No. 28 pro style quarterback. —*Rivals.com*

ans and promising underclassmen. Senior center Tommy Sharpe is a former walk-on respected for his competitive fire and sense of humor, but massive sophomore Dustin Fry could push him for a starting spot. When Fry lines up next to muscular senior left guard Cedric Johnson, the Tigers have a drive-blocking combination capable of flattening the most talented defensive linemen.

Nathan Bennett, Roman Fry (no relation to Dustin), Marion Dukes and Brandon Pilgrim are sophomores who demonstrated they will be excellent players in time. Dukes has great size (6-4, 315) and quick feet. Bennett's mean streak occasionally infuriates teammates during practice but inspires them during games and causes the unit to play harder.

Although this group struggled during the spring, it has the talent to be solid despite the losses of leaders Gregory Walker and William Henry. The speed with which the sophomores blend into a cohesive unit will be a huge factor in the success of the offense.

DEFENSE

Line—Ron West, who was offensive line coach before a staff shakeup moved him to defense, will coach the unit that will make or break the team. After two years of failure, the offensive line began to turn things around under West late last season. Now West takes over a unit that has experienced significant talent losses. The Tigers were prepared for the departure of end Khaleed Vaughn, a three-year starter. But Washington surprised the staff by leaving a year early for the NFL draft. His absence deprives the defense of a huge presence who demanded a double-team at tackle on every play.

Senior Eric Coleman is Clemson's only proven commodity at tackle. Junior Trey Tate, who likely will start at the other tackle spot, showed promise last season as a reserve but still has a lot to prove. Junior college transfer Cory Groover could be a big key. If he is as good as some recruiting analysts suggest, Clemson might overcome the loss of Washington.

Junior Charles Bennett and seniors Maurice Fountain and Vontrell Jamison will be capable on the ends. They will stuff the run and should get some pressure on the quarterback, but they won't be dominant players. Coaches also are excited about sophomore Gaines Adams, who might not start this season but shows signs of being a fearsome pass rusher in the future.

Linebackers—It won't be easy for Hill to improve his productivity from last season, when he led the ACC with 27 tackles for loss. Opponents will spend the offseason scheming to run plays away from Hill. The good news for Clemson is that Hill has superb timing and discipline and isn't likely to get caught out of position chasing individual statistics.

The bad news is that sophomore Anthony Waters is a first-year starter at the other linebacker. Waters is bigger than any Clemson linebacker in recent memory (6-3, 235), and

Hopes are high for Duane Coleman, who has the potential to be Clemson's best back in years.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

TIGERS ROSTER

NO.	NAME	HT./WT.	CL.	EXP.	HOMETOWN/PREVIOUS SCHOOL
			QUARTERBACKS		
14	Will Proctor	6-2/200	So.	1L	Winter Park, Fla./Trinity Prep
6	Charlie Whitehurst	6-4/220	Jr.	2L	Duluth, Ga./Chattahoochee
			RUNNING BACKS		
3	Duane Coleman	5-10/190	Jr.	1L	Naples, Fla./Naples
36	Clifford Harrell (FB)	6-1/260	Jr.	2L	Tallahassee, Fla./North Florida Christian Academy
35	Steven Jackson (FB)	6-2/245	Jr.	1L	Columbia, S.C./Spring Valley
5	Yusef Kelly	6-0/234	Gr.	3L	Walterboro, S.C./Walterboro
37	Reggie Merriweather	5-8/212	So.	1L	North Augusta, S.C./North Augusta
16	Brandon Nolen	5-11/192	Fr.	RS	Sayreville, N.J./Old Bridge
			RECEIVERS/TIGHT ENDS		
18	Curtis Baham	6-1/190	Jr.	1L	New Orleans/John Curtis
94	Kevin Burnette	6-3/240	Sr.	1L	Potomac Falls, Va./Potomac Falls
46	Ryan Charpia	5-9/175	Sr.	1L	Charleston, S.C./James Island
82	Michael Collins	6-4/218	Jr.	1L	Commerce, Ga./Commerce
1	Airese Currie	5-11/185	Sr.	3L	Columbia, S.C./Richland Northeast
88	Kelvin Grant	6-2/215	So.	1L	Camden, S.C./Camden
84	Zach Green (TE)	6-6/253	Fr.	RS	Conyers, Ga./Salem
87	Ben Hall (TE)	6-5/250	Sr.	3L	Wellford, S.C./Byrnes
89	Thomas Hunter (TE)	6-4/240	Jr.	1L	Marion, S.C./Pee Dee Academy
85	Chris Jefferson	6-2/175	Fr.	RS	Morganton, N.C./Freedom
13	Gerald McCloud	6-2/195	So.	1L	Jacksonville/Arlington Country Day
47	Gene Pate	6-1/200	Sr.	1L	Tucker, Ga./Tucker
2	Chansi Stuckey	6-0/180	So.	1L	Warner Robins, Ga./Northside
81	Bobby Williamson (TE)	6-3/250	Jr.	2L	Tarpon Springs, Fla./East Lake
			OFFENSIVE LINEMEN		
63	Nathan Bennett (G)	6-5/312	So.	1L	Dallas, Ga./Paulding County
67	Christian Capote	6-5/320	Fr.	RS	Miami/Miami Killian
73	Tim DeBeer (T)	6-6/295	So.	1L	Atlanta/Marist
90	Cole Downer (C)	6-3/250	Jr.	RS	Chantilly, Va./Chantilly
75	Marion Dukes (T)	6-4/315	So.	1L	Pickens, S.C./Pickens
62	Dustin Fry (C)	6-2/319	So.	1L	Summerville, S.C./Summerville
72	Roman Fry (T)	6-4/285	So.	1L	Ironton, Ohio/Ironton
65	Cedric Johnson (G)	6-4/325	Sr.	3L	Barwick, Ga./Thomas County Central
51	Clint LaTray (G)	6-3/280	Fr.	RS	Allen, Texas/Allen
77	Brad Lee (T)	6-4/275	So.	SQ	Hephzibah, Ga./Hephzibah
64	Chip Myrick (G)	6-4/290	Jr.	1L	Atlanta/Lovett School
74	Brandon Pilgrim (G)	6-5/298	So.	1L	Lilburn, Ga./Parkview
53	Tommy Sharpe (C)	6-0/270	Sr.	2L	Albany, Ga./Westover
			DEFENSIVE LINEMEN		
93	Gaines Adams (E)	6-5/250	So.	1L	Greenwood, S.C./Cambridge Academy
86	Charles Bennett (E)	6-4/242	Jr.	2L	Camden, S.C./Camden
95	Brandon Cannon (E)	6-3/255	So.	1L	Lithonia, Ga./Stephenson
44	Donnell Clark (E)	6-2/266	So.	1L	Griffin, Ga./Griffin
76	Eric Coleman (T)	6-5/305	Sr.	3L	Charlottesville, Va./Charlottesville
99	Maurice Fountain (E)	6-4/250	Sr.	3L	Camden, S.C./Camden
52	Vontrell Jamison (E)	6-7/280	Sr.	1L	Holly Hill, S.C./Mississippi Gulf Coast CC
91	Chris McDuffie (T)	6-4/310	Fr.	RS	Danville, Va./George Washington
92	Trey Tate (T)	6-4/270	Jr.	2L	Gaffney, S.C./Gaffney
			LINEBACKERS		
20	Tramaine Billie	6-1/195	So.	1L	Eastover, S.C./Dreher
31	David Dunham	6-2/225	Jr.	2L	Lake City, Fla./Columbia
43	Leroy Hill	6-1/220	Sr.	3L	Haddock, Ga./Baldwin
48	Kelvin Morris	6-4/220	Sr.	1L	Timmonsville, S.C./Southwest Mississippi JC
42	Maurice Nelson	6-2/210	Fr.	RS	Rembert, S.C./Crestwood
49	Roosevelt Nelson	6-2/218	Jr.	2L	Rembert, S.C./Crestwood
46	Lionel Richardson	6-0/205	Sr.	1L	Huger, S.C./Hanahan
38	Eric Sampson	6-2/205	Sr.	2L	Jacksonville/Edward H. White
51	Brent Smith	5-11/208	Jr.	1L	Moncks Corner, S.C./Berkeley
55	Nigel Vaughn	6-0/215	Jr.	2L	Atlanta/North Atlanta
40	Anthony Waters	6-3/235	So.	1L	Lake View, S.C./Lake View
32	Nick Watkins	6-2/205	Fr.	RS	New Orleans/Karr
98	Kwam Williams	6-3/220	Fr.	RS	Conley, Ga./Westlake
			DEFENSIVE BACKS		
28	Kyle Browning (CB)	5-7/172	Jr.	1L	Union, S.C./Union
24	Jamaal Fudge (SS)	5-10/190	Jr.	2L	Jacksonville/Edward H. White
12	C.J. Gaddis (CB)	6-0/205	Fr.	RS	Raeford, N.C./Hoke County
8	Tye Hill (CB)	5-10/180	Jr.	2L	Saint George, S.C./ Woodland
15	Sergio Gilliam (CB)	6-3/173	So.	1L	Gray Court, S.C./Greer
9	Justin Miller (CB)	5-11/200	Jr.	2L	Owensboro, Ky./Owensboro
23	Tavaghn Monts (SS)	6-2/191	Sr.	2L	Jacksonville/Ribault
29	Travis Pugh (FS)	6-1/195	Sr.	3L	Manning, S.C./Manning
27	Robert Reese (CB)	5-11/185	Fr.	RS	Temple, Ga./Temple
34	Roy Walker (FS)	6-3/195	Fr.	RS	Oglethorpe, Ga./Macon County
			SPECIALISTS		
30	Cole Chason (P)	6-0/161	So.	1L	Roswell, Ga./Greater Atlanta Christian
7	Jad Dean (K)	5-11/200	So.	1L	Greenwood, S.C./Greenwood
16	Stephen Furr (K)	6-1/185	Jr.	1L	Lakeland, Fla./Lakeland

he has a workmanlike attitude that makes him a favorite among teammates. Coaches have been impressed with the play of redshirt freshman Nick Watkins, who is much smaller than Waters but always seems to be around the ball.

Secondary—There isn't a more talented cornerback duo in the nation than Miller and Hill. Miller has 10 interceptions in two seasons, possesses great speed and has a knack for hitting ballcarriers square in the chest at full speed. Hill is a sprinter on the track team who had difficulty with assignments and zone coverage last season but can blanket the most talented wide receivers in man-to-man.

Lovett, who coaches the secondary, loves free safety Travis Pugh, a senior who covers a lot of ground, makes good reads and rarely misses a tackle. The whip and rover safety positions in Clemson's 4-2-5 scheme also are staffed by experienced players. Whip Eric Sampson and rover Jamaal Fudge were high school teammates in Jacksonville. Sampson has overcome off-the-field problems, and Fudge was a pleasant surprise last season despite his lack of size (5-10, 190).

Clemson's opponents won't make a lot of big plays because the defensive backs are so experienced and Lovett's schemes are solid. The Tigers will be more vulnerable to teams with physical offensive lines and powerful running games that can capitalize on the inexperience up front.

SPECIAL TEAMS

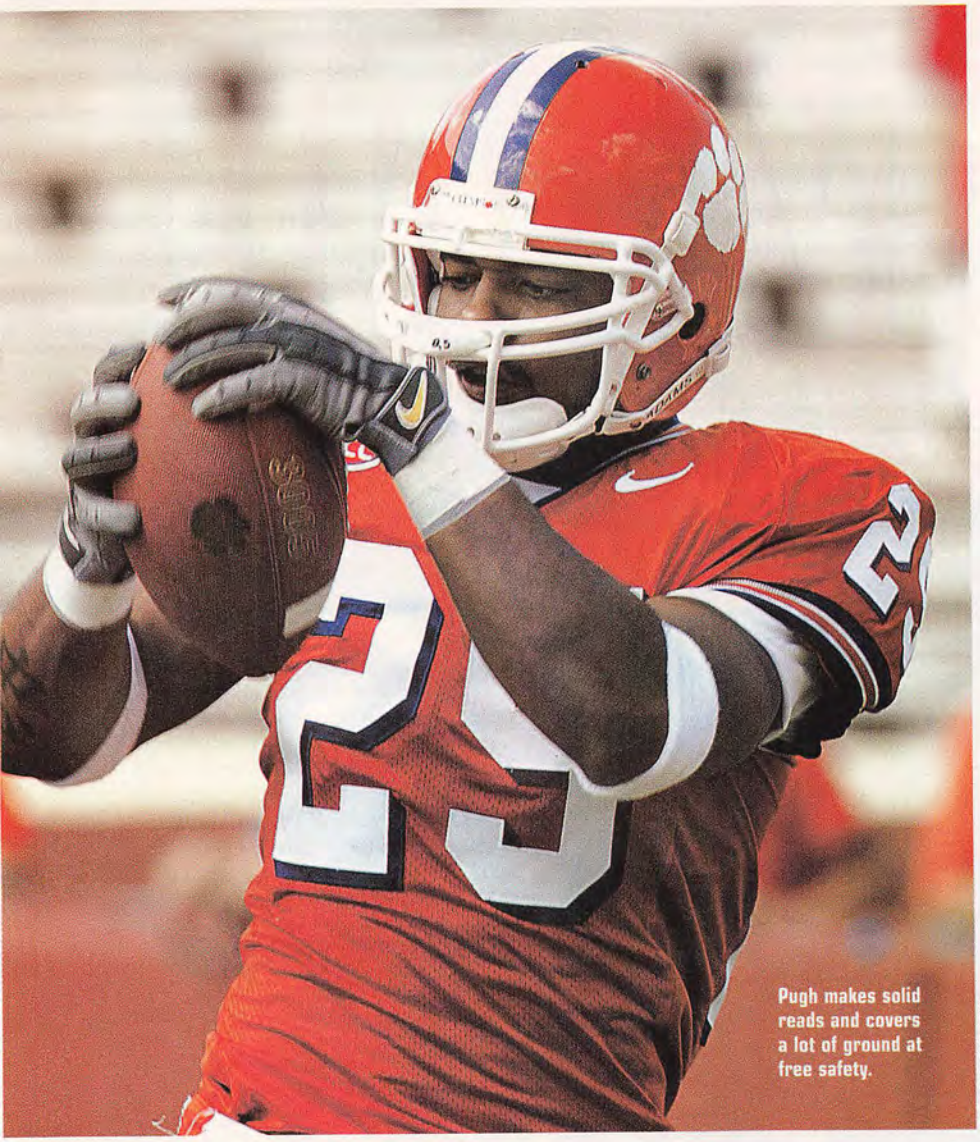
Punter Cole Chason showed promise last season as a redshirt freshman, averaging 38.6 yards per kick, but the Tigers lose Aaron Hunt, who was their starting kicker for four years. Sophomore Jad Dean, who handled kickoffs last season, has a stronger leg than Hunt, but Dean struggled with accuracy during the spring and was overtaken by junior Stephen Furr.

Clemson's return game is one of the best in the nation. Although Hamilton's departure deprives the Tigers of a spectacular return man, Miller has returned a punt and a kickoff for touchdowns. Miller isn't as slippery as Hamilton but doesn't shy from contact and is less likely to get negative yards on a return. The Tigers' coverage teams made tremendous improvement last season from '02, when Clemson gave up a school-record five touchdowns in the kicking game.

BOTTOM LINE

The question is whether the inexperienced linemen on both sides will play well enough to allow the skill players to shine. Reaching a bowl game for a sixth straight season won't be a problem for this team. The line play will determine whether the Tigers can build on a nine-win season and compete for an ACC title. **TSN**

Ken Tysiac covers the ACC for the Charlotte Observer.



Pugh makes solid reads and covers a lot of ground at free safety.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

2003 RESULTS

Georgia	L, 30-0
Furman	W, 28-17
Middle Tennessee	W, 37-14
at Georgia Tech	W, 39-3
at Maryland	L, 21-7
Virginia	W, 30-27 (OT)
at N.C. State	L, 17-15
North Carolina	W, 36-28
at Wake Forest	L, 45-17
Florida State	W, 26-10
Duke	W, 40-7
at South Carolina	W, 63-17
*Tennessee	W, 27-14

*Peach Bowl

STATISTICAL LEADERS

Rushing	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Duane Coleman	**133**	**615**	**4.6**	**2**
Chad Jasmin	112	523	4.7	9

Passing	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Int.
Charlie Whitehurst	**465**	**288**	**61.9**	**3,561**	**21**	**13**
Chansi Stuckey	**21**	**11**	**52.4**	**97**	**2**	**0**

Receiving	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Kevin Youngblood	70	897	12.8	2
Derrick Hamilton	62	1,026	16.5	10
Airese Currie	**43**	**560**	**13.0**	**4**
Duane Coleman	**34**	**309**	**9.1**	**3**

Kicking	XPM	XPA	FGM	FGA	Pts.
Aaron Hunt	38	42	18	26	92
Fletcher Anderson	1	1	—	—	1

Tackles	Solo	Assists	Total	TFL/Yds.
Leroy Hill	**110**	**35**	**145**	**27/-92**
John Leake	89	42	131	12/-42
Jamaal Fudge	**77**	**39**	**116**	**5/-10**
Travis Pugh	**77**	**25**	**102**	**1/-5**

SACKS: Hill (8.0)
INTERCEPTIONS: Fudge (4)

Returning players in bold

Team	Avg.	Rank
Rushing offense:	136.9	6th ACC/73rd nation
Rushing defense:	131.7	4th/35th
Passing offense:	283.6	2nd/16th
Passing defense:	204.5	2nd/38th
Total offense:	420.5	3rd/30th
Total defense:	336.2	4th/29th
Turnover margin:	.31	5th/43rd

KEY LOSSES

Offense

WR Tony Elliott (23 rec., 286 yards); WR Derrick Hamilton (62 rec., 1,026 yards, 10 TDs); T William Henry; K Aaron Hunt (18-of-26 FGs, 92 pts); RB Chad Jasmin (112 carries, 538 yards, 9 TDs); T Gregory Walker; WR Kevin Youngblood (70 rec., 897 yards, 2 TDs).

Defense

LB John Leake (131 tackles, 12 tackles for loss, 3 sacks); T DeJaun Polk (36 tackles); DE Khaleed Vaughn (50 tackles, 2 sacks); T Donnell Washington (56 tackles, 10 tackles for loss, 4 sacks).

THREE ON THE RISE

OT Marion Dukes. He is the likely starter at right tackle after playing 97 snaps behind senior Gregory Walker in 2003. Dukes is a product of nearby Pickens, S.C., with the size and agility to develop into Clemson's first NFL offensive line starter since Jim Bundren was the Browns' center in 2000.

WR Kelvin Grant. Grant made a turnaround in the classroom in the spring after frustrating the coaching staff for three semesters. The improvement came just in time, as the Tigers are seeking a big-play receiver to offset the loss of Derrick Hamilton. Grant is big and strong enough to wrestle the ball away from opposing cornerbacks on fade routes and could provide a nice complement to speedy senior Airese Currie.

LB Anthony Waters. Teammates marvel at the amount of time he spends in the weight room, and he has a chance to be Clemson's biggest starting linebacker since Chad Carson in 2001. If Waters doesn't make a big impact at this position, redshirt freshman Nick Watkins will.

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

	Offense		Defense
WR	Airese Currie	E	Charles Bennett
	Chansi Stuckey		Gaines Adams
LT	Roman Fry	T	Eric Coleman
	Brad Lee		Chris McDuffie
LG	Cedric Johnson*	T	Trey Tate
	Brandon Pilgrim		Cory Groover
C	Tommy Sharpe*	E	Maurice Fountain*
	Dustin Fry		Vontrell Jamison
RG	Chip Myrick	LB	Anthony Waters
	Nathan Bennett		Nick Watkins
RT	Marion Dukes	LB	Leroy Hill*
	Tim DeBeer		David Dunham
TE	Bobby Williamson*	WS	Eric Sampson*
	Ben Hall		Tramaine Billie
WR	Curtis Baham	CB	Justin Miller*
	Kelvin Grant		Sergio Gilliam
QB	Charlie Whitehurst*	SS	Jamaal Fudge*
	Will Proctor		Tavaghn Monts
RB	Duane Coleman*	FS	Travis Pugh*
	Yusef Kelly		Roy Walker
FB	Clifford Harrell	CB	Tye Hill*
	Steven Jackson		Robert Reese
K	Stephen Furr	P	Cole Chason*
KR	Justin Miller	PR	Justin Miller

* Returning starter

MARYLAND TERRAPINS

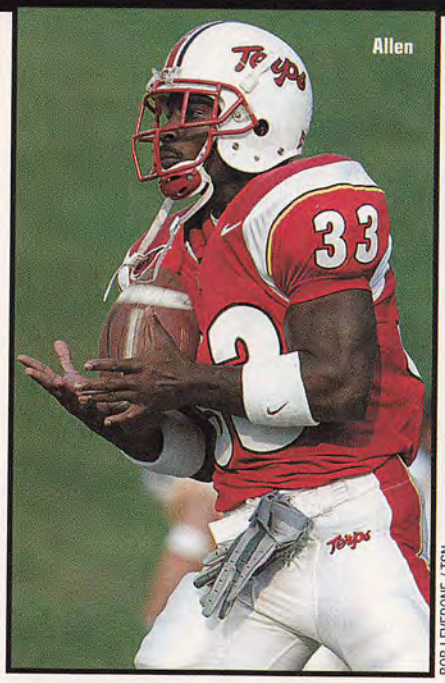
Projected finish: 8-3 5-3/5th in conference

By Michael Bradley

Three consecutive seasons with at least 10 wins have established the Terps as one of the nation's top programs. Now, Maryland is *expected* to reach double digits in the win column and reach a New Year's Day bowl. That's the way it goes when you achieve certain things, and Terrapins coach Ralph Friedgen doesn't want it any other way.

But leading a team that returns only nine starters into the bulked-up ACC might make it tough for Friedgen to maintain his team's lofty status. The Terps need to find a new quarterback and rebuild the linebacking unit, and they must count on a bunch of youngsters for immediate—and substantial—contributions. Meanwhile, at Miami, the All-American bus just pulled up and 10 more studs jumped off.

But don't cry for Maryland. This year's incoming recruits might be the best in school history. Enough talent remains in the backfield and on the offensive line to produce a clock-churning ground game. And there is Friedgen. He might be America's most talented offensive coach, capable of installing and unleashing a diverse attack that mystifies some defensive coordinators and leaves others shaking their heads in admiration. As the Terps try to pull off another difficult encore, the Fridge might be their ultimate weapon.



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COACHING

Strategies—Last year, one ACC defensive coordinator marveled at Friedgen's ability to pack so many variations into game plans—and actually get his players to execute them. That's hell for any defense. Stopping a rollout passing package is one thing. Controlling a power running game is another. Keeping the lid on a vertical passing attack can be difficult, too. Put it all together, and it's nearly impossible to slow down. That's what makes Maryland successful offensively. The Terps can do so many things well that even the most talented defense will have some problems with them.

On defense, Maryland plays a 3-4 and funnels everything to its inside linebackers. Last year, that meant big numbers for D'Qwell Jackson, who made 132 tackles as a sophomore. Maryland isn't just a read-and-react team—it had 74 tackles for loss last year. But with a secondary that will need some time to come together, don't expect front-seven fireworks on passing downs early on.

Style—Because Maryland has the fifth-most experienced combination of head coach, offensive coordinator and defensive coordinator in the country, the Terps aren't heavy on screaming and rah-rah stuff. Not that Friedgen doesn't get excited. It's just that he's confident enough to know what works. Charlie Taaffe, who has spent some

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	TSN pick
Sept. 4	Northern Illinois	W
Sept. 11	Temple	W
Sept. 18	at West Virginia	W
Sept. 25	at Duke	W
Oct. 9	Georgia Tech	W
Oct. 16	N.C. State	W
Oct. 23	at Clemson	L
Oct. 30	Florida State	L
Nov. 6	at Virginia	L
Nov. 18	at Virginia Tech	W
Nov. 27	Wake Forest	W

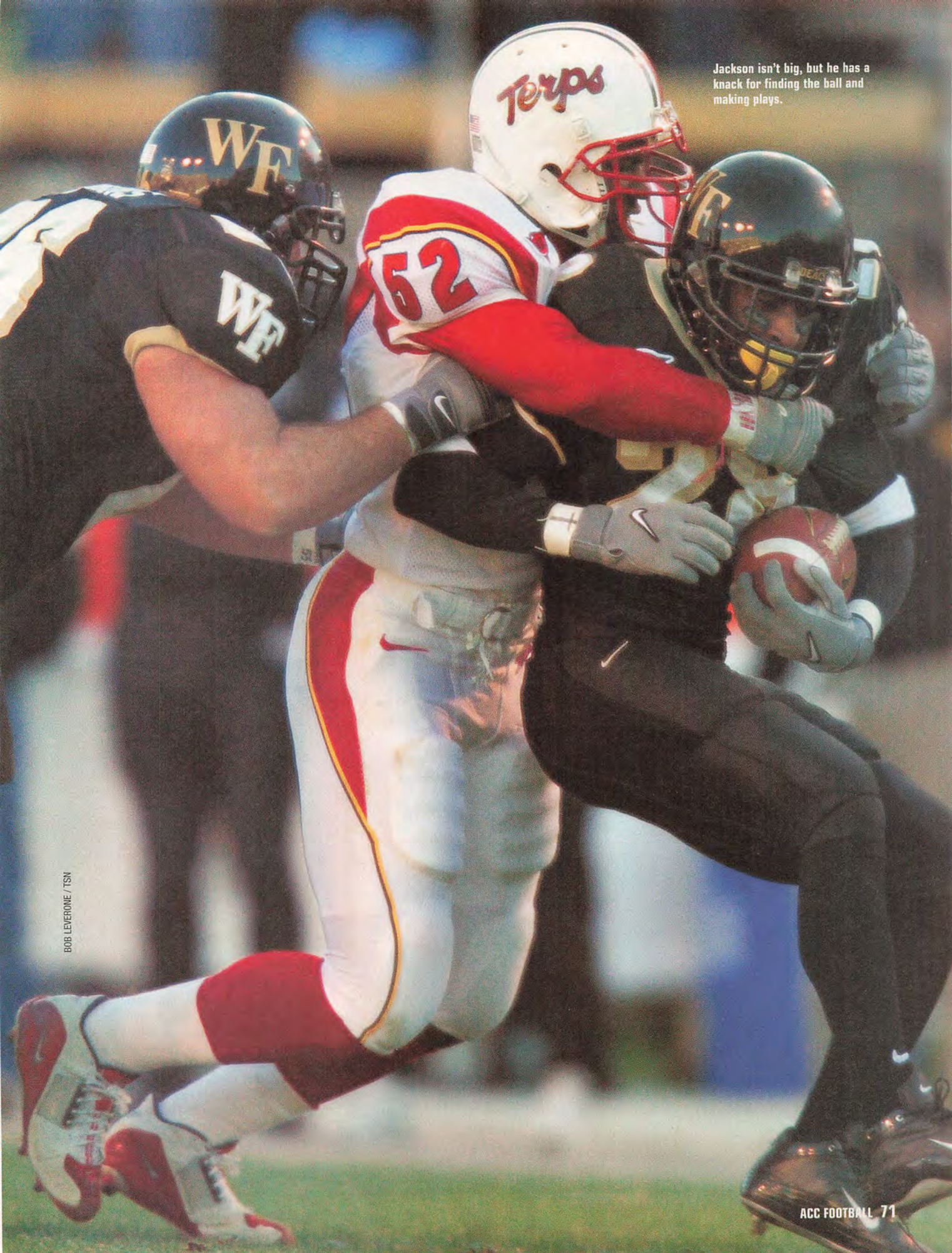
Strength of schedule rank
Conference: 5
Nation: 25

GAME OF THE YEAR

The Terps visit Virginia Tech on a Thursday night in their only meeting with one of the new ACC clubs. The game could have huge bowl implications because the addition of Miami likely will push other conference members down a peg in the postseason hierarchy. It's likely the Terps and Hokies will enter the game with similar records, and a win could mean the difference between a second-tier bowl and one that has much less cache.

Maryland has a great schedule for a quick start and for developing some of its younger players at key positions. The Terps suffered an embarrassing loss at Northern Illinois in the first game of last season but should have no trouble with the Huskies in this year's opener at College Park. The trip to West Virginia could prove problematic, even though Maryland has won four straight over the Mountaineers. The stretch run will be difficult, with home games against Florida State and Wake Forest bookending trips to Virginia and Virginia Tech. Because Maryland usually is better late than early, it should be well-prepared.

More on Maryland at foxsports.com/named/FS/CFB/teams



Jackson isn't big, but he has a knack for finding the ball and making plays.

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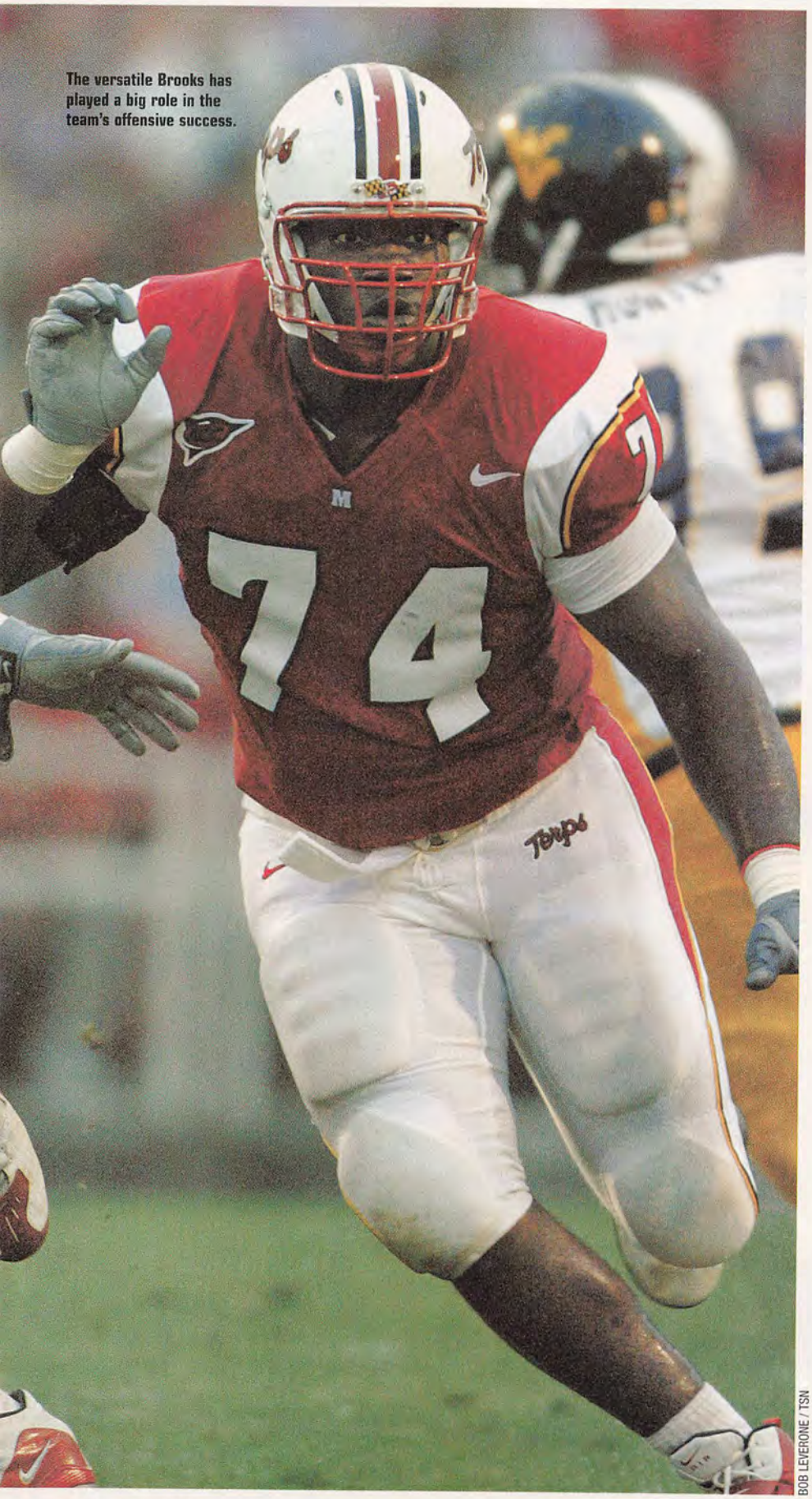


The versatile Brooks has played a big role in the team's offensive success.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

time in the CFL, has a fertile offensive mind that complements Friedgen well. And for a while there at Bowling Green, defensive boss Gary Blackney was considered one of the nation's hottest mid-major coaches. His influence has made Maryland more than just a shoot-'em-up team.

OFFENSE

Quarterbacks—OK, so the Terps need a quarterback. But that shouldn't be a problem with Friedgen around. Three years ago, Shaun Hill had a career year under the Fridge's tutelage. The past two seasons, particularly 2003, belonged to Scott McBrien. Now comes the class of '04. Problem is, none of the candidates has a solid resume.

Sophomore Joel Statham played the second half against Georgia Tech last year, after McBrien suffered a concussion. Maryland lost, 7-3, and though Statham was 10 of 22 for 110 yards, he threw a key interception and was sacked three times. Statham is mobile and has skill, but he must prove he can execute. Redshirt freshman Ryan Mitch is the same smallish size as Statham (6-1, 207), but Mitch was impressive while running the scout team last season and could get the nod. The fallback candidate is 6-5 sophomore Sam Hollenbach, who has a big arm but needs to show how well he can use it under duress.

Running backs—Maryland might not be too happy about its relative inexperience at

An ACC coach says...

Ralph Friedgen takes his multiple formations and multiple plays and grooms them to the personnel he has. Sometimes he does this week-to-week. If he has an injury, he doesn't just plug somebody new into the same play. He'll take the next guy and do something completely different. That's NFL-ish. ... **Josh Allen** has breakaway speed and great vision. He has those tangible skills. But he just looks like he has fun playing the game. Every snap, he wants to see what he can make happen. It's like he's playing in his back yard. But I don't think he's as good as Bruce Perry. I'd rather see Allen out there than Perry. ... They have as many wide receivers on scholarship as I've seen in this league, and you can't tell a lot of difference between them. I don't know how fast **Derrick Fenner** is, but he can run by you. ... Their offensive line can do everything. They'll zone you, and then the next play, they'll run a draw or a dive option. They'll trap you. Guard **C.J. Brooks** is their best lineman, but their whole group is well-coached. ... They like to pressure you on defense. They play some man and run zone blitzes and man blitzes and fire zones. It's one of the most complex defenses in the league. **D'Qwell Jackson** has great instincts and gets to the football. The problem is that they change things around up front, and you can't get to Jackson. You have to try to find him to block him.

quarterback, but it can't say a negative word about its ground game. Even though Bruce Perry is gone, as many as five backs will contribute this year, giving the Terrapins considerable versatility and providing a safety net for whichever greenhorn ends up under center.

Leading rusher Josh Allen, a speedy junior who led the team with 922 yards and eight touchdowns on the ground in 2003, will be the featured back—at least to start. When Friedgen and Taaffe want to hit opponents with a changeup, they'll call on senior Sammy Maldonado, who missed the last half of 2003 with a torn ACL but still gained 305 yards. Maldonado is a sturdy, between-the-tackles type who might need some time to get rolling. He was unable to participate in spring drills.

The coaches are high on redshirt freshman Lance Ball, who showed off his complete package of skills on the scout team last year. Sophomore J.P. Humber gives the Terps a big back to use inside, and junior Mario Merrills is healthy after fighting a hamstring injury last season.

Fullback is a concern. Junior Ricardo Dickerson spent more time last year as a rush end in the dime package than he did playing fullback, and senior Maurice Smith had one carry in his 11 games at fullback last year.

Receivers—The Terps lost leading receiver Latrez Harrison, but because eight players caught at least 10 passes last year and Harrison topped out at a modest 39, there isn't much concern. The most exciting returning player is junior Derrick Fenner, who averaged an eye-popping 27.8 yards on his 12 catches last year. Both of his touchdowns covered more than 60 yards.

Senior Steve Suter, another deep threat who averaged 16.2 yards on his 29 catches last year, will line up opposite Fenner. Slot man Rich Parson is a consistent senior, and junior Dan Melendez and sophomore Drew Weatherly should make significant contributions.

Junior Derek Miller should get the early nod at tight end because of his blocking skills and experience, but look for the Terps to use more formations using slotbacks. Two big, athletic players—6-2 senior Rob Abiamiri and 6-3 sophomore Vernon Davis—will be used in creative ways to give Friedgen's offense different looks. Both have the speed and athletic ability to stretch the field and help the Terps go vertical. The result will be more three- and four-receiver sets.

Line—Maryland is strong up front and returns three starters, including first-team All-ACC guard C.J. Brooks, whose size allows him to handle work at tackle, too. As the Terps' younger players emerge, he might move outside. Although he's a strong technician, Brooks has some roughneck in him. Left tackle belongs to Stephon Heyer, a junior who is a sound pass blocker and appears ready to challenge for all-conference honors. In the middle, Kyle Schmitt returns after getting All-ACC honorable mention and grading out as the team's top lineman last year.

NICKEL PACKAGE

Five things to look for

1 The quarterback derby will have a happy ending. Ralph Friedgen is an ace quarterback tutor, and he will settle on the player who has the best chance to succeed in the system.

2 The Terps gained 508 yards more passing than rushing last year. That margin should close this season, thanks in large part to a great stable of running backs.

3 This is the best incoming freshman class in years, and there are openings. Eric Lenz, Dennis Marsh, Chris Varner, Richard Taylor and highly touted quarterback Jordan Steffy could play.

4 The middle linebacker at Maryland makes tons of tackles. Expect another triple-figure output—perhaps 150 stops—from D'Qwell Jackson.

5 Don't worry about those new interlopers. Friedgen has built a great foundation and has the Terps in position to compete in the bulked-up ACC.

QUICK HITS

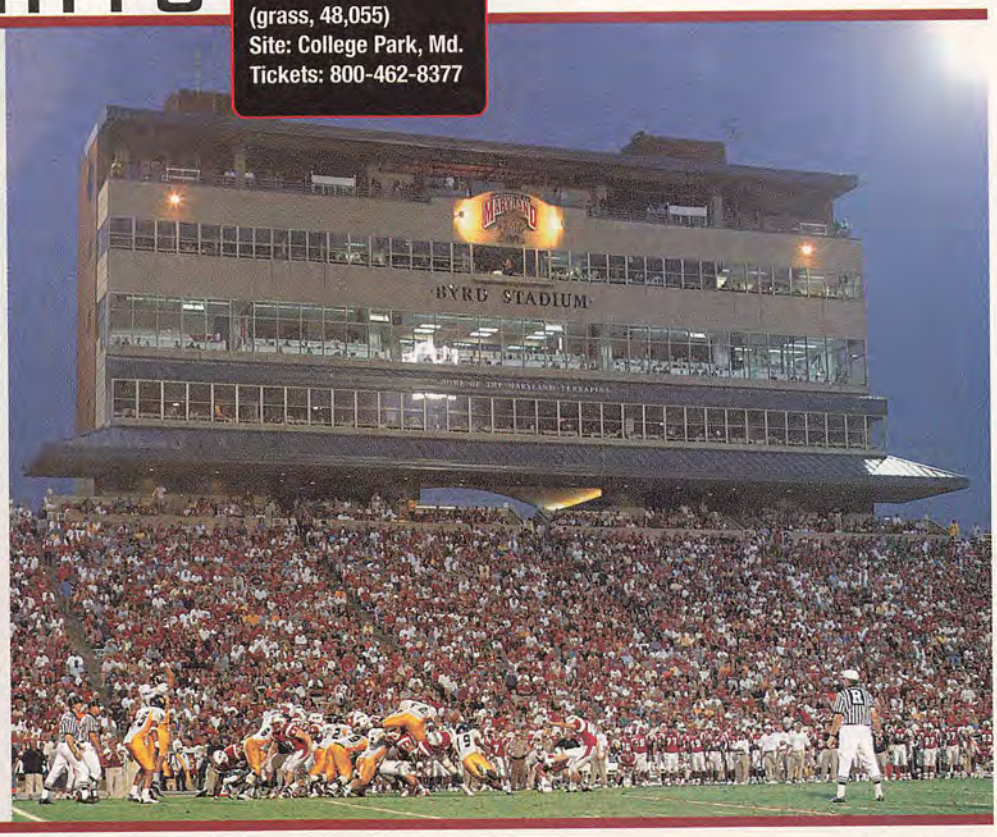
COACHING STAFF

Head coach: Ralph Friedgen (31-8, 3 years)
Offensive coordinator/quarterbacks: Charlie Taaffe (4th year)
Defensive coordinator/secondary: Gary Blackney (4th year)
Inside linebackers: Tim Banks (2nd year)
Offensive line: Tom Brattan (4th year)
Wide receivers/recruiting coordinator: James Franklin (5th year)
Strength and conditioning: Dwight Galt (11th year)
Running backs: Bill O'Brien (2nd year)
Special teams/tight ends: Ray Rychleski (4th year)
Outside linebackers/special teams assistant: Al Seamonson (4th year)
Defensive line: Dave Sollazzo (4th year)

FORMATIONS AND FIGURES

Offensive scheme: Option
Defensive scheme: 3-4
Last league title won: 2001
Last time didn't go to a bowl: 2000
2003 TSN preseason rank: 17
2003 record: 10-3 (beat West Virginia in Gator Bowl); ACC: 6-2/2nd
Website: www.umterps.com

Stadium: Byrd (grass, 48,055)
Site: College Park, Md.
Tickets: 800-462-8377



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RECRUITING

2004 CLASS

RATINGS BY RIVALS.COM

NAME	POS.	HT./WT.	HOMETOWN/SCHOOL
★★★★★ AMONG THE NATION'S TOP 30 PROSPECTS			
None			
★★★★ AMONG THE NATION'S TOP 200 PROSPECTS			
Scott Burley	OT	6-6/340	Baltimore/Woodlwan Senior
Trey Covington	DE	6-3/230	Greenbelt, Md./Eleanor Roosevelt
Carlos Feliciano	OL	6-5/290	Elizabeth, N.J./Elizabeth
Kent Hicks	S	6-3/207	Culpeper, Va./Culpeper
J.J. Justice	S	6-1/218	Lisbon, Conn./Norwich Free Academy
Jamie Thomas	OT	6-5/330	Harrisburg, Pa./Bishop McDevitt
★★★ AMONG THE NATION'S TOP 600 PROSPECTS			
Kevin Barnes	CB	6-1/180	Glen Burnie, Md./Old Mill
Chase Bullock	LB	6-2/220	Durham, N.C./Northern
Obi Egekeze	K	6-3/195	Augusta, Ga./Westside
Mack Frost	DE	6-5/260	Columbia, S.C./Spring Valley
Jared Gaither	OT/DE	6-9/300	White Plains, Md./Eleanor Roosevelt
Keon Lattimore	RB	6-1/205	Chatham, Va./Hargrave Military Academy (Va.)
Eric Lenz	LB	6-4/220	Frederick, Md./Urbana
Dennis Marsh	DT	6-4/275	Browns Summit, N.C./Northeast Guilford
Dane Randolph	DE	6-5/244	Columbia, Md./Wilde Lake
Jordan Steffy	QB	6-1/210	Leola, Pa./Conestoga Valley
Chris Varner	CB	5-11/180	Baltimore/Randallstown
★★ SOLID DIVISION I PROSPECT			
Matt Deese	FB	5-11/245	Greensboro, N.C./Northeast Guilford
Jason Goode	TE	6-4/230	Baltimore/Woodlawn
Jack Griffin	DT	6-6/270	Enfield, Conn./Enfield
Erin Henderson	QB/LB	6-4/225	Aberdeen, Md./Aberdeen
Richard Taylor	TB/CB	5-10/190	Centreville, Va./Centreville
Edwin Williams	OT	6-4/295	Washington, D.C./DeMatha

INSIDE DISH

Many Maryland watchers think this is the school's best class ever. The group ranked third in the ACC and No. 17 in the nation. … Maryland quietly is stockpiling talent. This year, the Terps signed six four-star prospects and 10 players ranked among the top 10 nationally at their positions. … **Trey Covington** of Greenbelt, Md., is the jewel of the class. He was rated as the nation's No. 6 defensive end last season at Eleanor Roosevelt High. … Maryland's quarterback of the future might have been signed in **Jordan Steffy** of Leola, Pa., who picked the Terps over Virginia Tech, Penn State, Michigan State and Clemson. He was ranked as the nation's No. 9 dual-threat quarterback. Steffy's mobility and speed should make him a perfect fit for Maryland's option scheme. … Running back **Keon Lattimore** of Hargrave Military Academy (Va.) is the younger brother of current NFL star linebacker Ray Lewis. Virginia and Virginia Tech were hot on Lattimore's trail. … Just think how much better Maryland's class would have been had it signed local products in defensive end Derrick Harvey of Greenbelt, Md., and wide receiver Derrick McPhearson of Hyattsville, Md. Alas, both considered the Terps but signed with Florida. … Coach **Ralph Friedgen** has said he wants to build with local talent, and 13 of this year's 23 recruits are from Maryland and Virginia. Other than Covington, safety **Kent Hicks** of Culpeper, Va., is the highest-rated prospect among local recruits. … The Terps topped Notre Dame for offensive tackles **Scott Burley** and **Jamie Thomas**. *—Rivals.com*

The trouble—if there is any—is on the right side. Senior Lou Lombardo played in every game last year at right tackle behind Eric Dumas but could be pushed by redshirt freshman Brock Choate or even true freshmen Jamie Thomas and Scott Burley. Although redshirt freshman right guard Andrew Crummey was impressive last year as a scout team performer and has improved his size and strength, he weighs just 273 pounds and is a natural center. Still, he's the best of the bunch at right guard, with fellow redshirt freshman Donnie Woods behind him.

DEFENSE

Line—The Terps are making all the right noises about this unit, describing its "talent" and "athletic ability," but those qualities might not be able to overcome the team's most obvious characteristic up front: "inexperience."

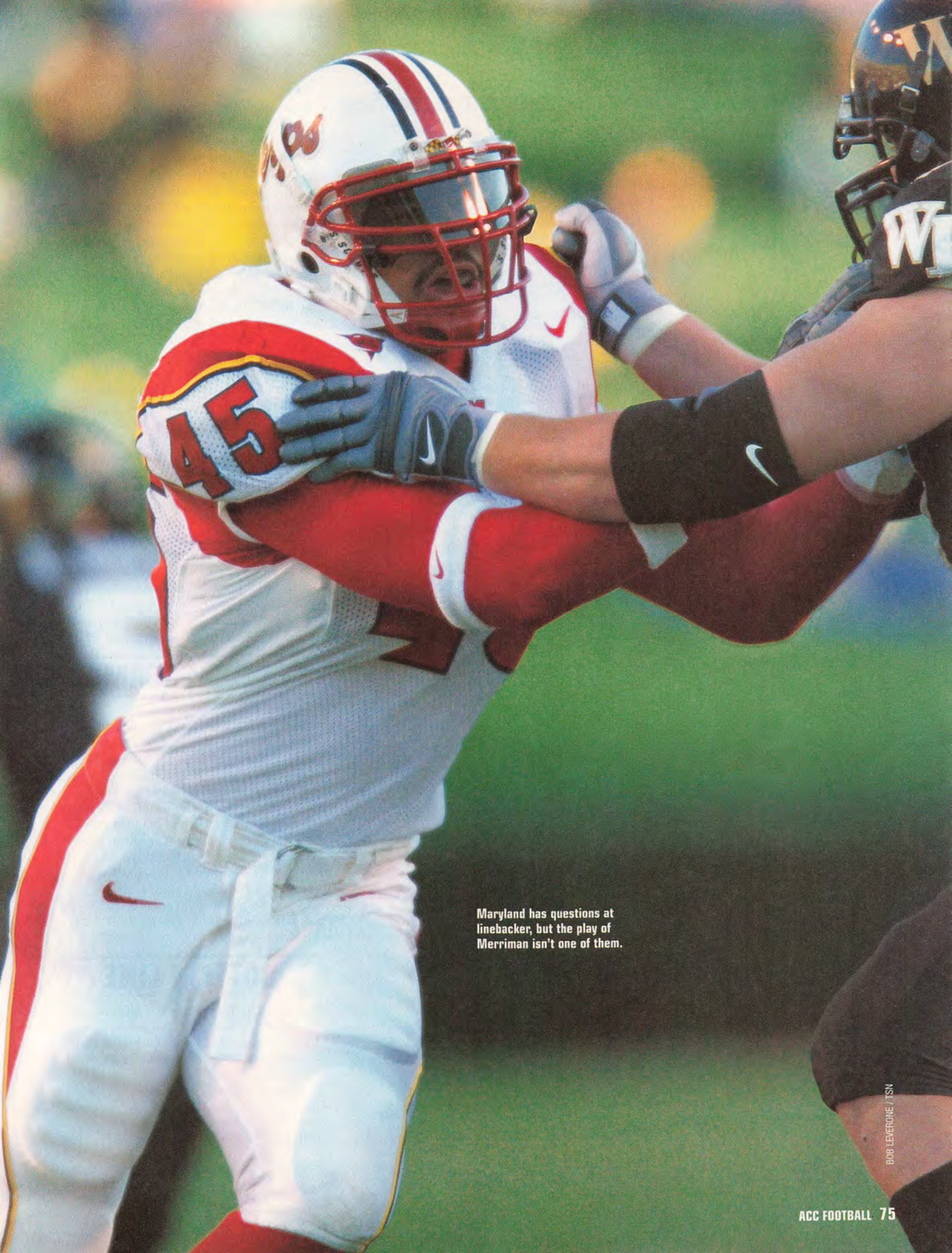
With the exception of senior end Kevin Eli, who jumped in for injured Scott Smith early last year and finished with 5½ sacks and 11 tackles behind the line, the team will use sophomores at the starting spots and hope more youngsters can provide the necessary depth. An example is at tackle, where sophomore Conrad Bolston, who made seven tackles a year ago, must mature quickly because Randy Starks, a first-team All-ACC choice last year, left early for the NFL. Bolston will work next to classmate Robert Armstrong, a stout nose defender with plenty of potential but little experience.

Redshirt freshman Omarr Savage has many physical gifts and could become a great end if his technique improves. Junior Justin Duffie, who missed last year as a medical redshirt, is an X-factor behind Armstrong, and redshirt freshman Dre Moore could supplant senior Henry Scott as the primary tackle backup. Also in the mix is true freshman Dennis Marsh, who enrolled in College Park for the 2004 winter semester and will be a step ahead of the other newcomers come fall.

Maryland needs this unit to occupy plenty of blockers in the running game and get a strong interior push against the pass, as last year's more experienced group did.

Linebackers—Is D'Qwell Jackson a star, or simply a product of the Maryland system? Good question, but who cares? He was a perfect replacement for E.J. Henderson last year, making 87 solo stops and keying a run defense that allowed just 3.5 yards per carry. Jackson isn't big—he's only 6-1, 224—but he is active and instinctive. If the line matures enough to keep him clear of blockers, he'll have another strong season.

The other experienced hand at linebacker is Shawne Merriman, a junior who registered 8½ sacks last year from his hybrid outside linebacker-defensive end position. He and Eli are solid bookends who provide a good upfield attack.



Maryland has questions at linebacker, but the play of Merriman isn't one of them.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

TERRAPINS ROSTER

NO.	NAME	HT./WT.	CL.	EXP.	HOMETOWN/PREVIOUS SCHOOL
			QUARTERBACKS		
13	Dan Gronkowski	6-5/235	Fr.	HS	Amherst, N.Y./Williamsville North
14	Sam Hollenbach	6-5/223	So.	SQ	Sellersville, Pa./Pennridge
10	Ryan Mitch	6-1/207	Fr.	RS	McLean, Va./DeMatha
16	Joel Statham	6-1/207	So.	1L	Chatsworth, Ga./Murray County
			RUNNING BACKS		
33	Josh Allen	5-11/207	Jr.	2L	Tampa/Eleanor Roosevelt
31	Lance Ball	5-9/229	Fr.	RS	Teaneck, N.J./Teaneck
18	Quintin Beltran	5-11/190	Sr.	SQ	Woodbridge, Va./C.D. Hylton
36	David Coleman	5-11/177	So.	SQ	Rosedale, N.Y./Bayside
5	Ricardo Dickerson (FB/LB)	6-1/243	Jr.	2L	Hyattsville, Md./Northwestern
20	J.P. Humber	6-0/217	So.	1L	Lakeland, Fla./George Jenkins
29	Sammy Maldonado	6-1/233	Sr.	1L	Harrison, N.Y./Ohio State
8	Mario Merrills	5-10/200	Jr.	2L	Columbia, Md./Wilde Lake
40	Maurice Smith (FB)	5-11/229	Sr.	3L	Waldorf, Md./Westlake
			RECEIVERS/TIGHT ENDS		
81	Paschal Abiamiri	6-2/193	So.	SQ	Randallstown, Md./Mount St. Joseph
3	Rob Abiamiri (TE)	6-2/241	Sr.	1L	Randallstown, Md/Mount St. Joseph
85	Tom Augustyn	6-0/197	Jr.	SQ	Fairfax, Va./Robinson
87	Vernon Davis (TE)	6-3/231	So.	1L	Washington, D.C./Dunbar
83	Derrick Fenner	6-0/185	Jr.	2L	Hampton, Va./Hampton
80	Joey Haynos (TE)	6-8/247	Fr.	RS	Rockville, Md./Gonzaga College High
85	Dan Melendez	6-2/175	Jr.	2L	Lancaster, Pa./J.P. McCaskey
84	Derek Miller (TE)	6-8/258	Jr.	2L	Carlisle, Pa./Boiling Springs
22	Rich Parson	5-10/187	Sr.	3L	Newark, Del./Newark Academy
20	Greg Powell	5-11/172	So.	SQ	Annapolis, Md./Annapolis
92	Darren Sanders (TE)	6-4/253	So.	SQ	Pomfret, Md./McDonough
86	Brad Schell (TE)	6-5/247	So.	SQ	Spencerville, Md./Paint Branch
34	Steve Suter	5-10/192	Sr.	2L	Manchester, Md./North Carroll
9	Jo Jo Walker	5-9/165	Jr.	2L	Carrollton, Texas/Creekview
89	Drew Weatherly	6-4/200	So.	1L	Georgetown, Del./Sussex Central
15	Curtis Williams	6-2/199	Sr.	3L	Huntington Station, N.Y./Huntington
			OFFENSIVE LINEMEN		
77	Russell Bonham (G)	6-4/295	Jr.	1L	Winston-Salem, N.C./Carver
74	C.J. Brooks (G)	6-6/318	Sr.	3L	Rex, Ga./Morrow
71	Brock Choate (T)	6-4/273	Fr.	RS	Montoursville, Pa./Loyalsock Township
66	Garrick Clig (G)	6-3/296	Fr.	RS	Port Orange, Fla./Spruce Creek
63	Andrew Crummey (C/G)	6-4/273	Fr.	RS	Van Wert, Ohio/Van Wert
78	Ryan Flynn (T)	6-3/273	Sr.	2L	Youngstown, Ohio/Cardinal Mooney
70	Stephon Heyer (T)	6-6/295	Jr.	2L	Lawrenceville, Ga./Brookwood
56	Robert Jenkins (C)	6-2/279	Jr.	RS	Bronx, N.Y./Nassau CC
79	Lou Lombardo (T)	6-6/287	Sr.	3L	Baltimore/Calvert Hall
76	Eddie Matto (G)	6-4/278	Fr.	RS	Miami Lakes, Fla./Delaney
55	Brendan McDermond	6-1/245	Fr.	RS	Columbia, Md./River Hill
68	Ryan McDonald (C)	6-2/281	Jr.	SQ	Hagerstown, Md./Concord College
58	Brandon Nixon (T)	6-5/337	Fr.	RS	Pottstown, Pa./Pottstown
65	Matt Powell (G)	6-4/331	Jr.	SQ	Ft. Washington, Md./Oxon Hill
59	Dave Quaintance (G)	6-5/275	So.	SQ	Philadelphia/Archbishop Ryan
72	Kyle Schmitt (C)	6-5/297	Sr.	3L	Derry, Pa./Derry Area
69	Donnie Woods (G)	6-3/286	Fr.	RS	Dade City, Fla./Thomas Jefferson
			DEFENSIVE LINEMEN		
91	Robert Armstrong (NT)	6-3/303	So.	1L	Arlington, Va./Fork Union Military
95	Conrad Bolston (T)	6-2/279	So.	1L	Burtonsville, Md./St. John's College High
64	Justin Duffie (NT)	6-1/287	Jr.	1L	Gaithersburg, Md./Landon
41	Kevin Eli (E)	6-2/272	Sr.	2L	Deptford, N.J./Deptford
92	Dre Moore (T)	6-4/285	Fr.	RS	Charlotte/Independence
90	Patrick Powell (E)	6-3/248	Fr.	RS	Richmond, Va./L.C. Bird
98	Omarr Savage (E)	6-5/248	Fr.	RS	Piscataway, N.J./Piscataway
76	Henry Scott (T)	6-3/279	Sr.	1L	Baltimore/Kenwood
			LINEBACKERS		
27	Tim Cesa	6-0/240	Fr.	RS	Kennesaw, Ga./Harrison
59	David Holloway	6-2/228	So.	SQ	Stephentown, N.Y./Albany Academy
52	D'Qwell Jackson	6-1/224	Jr.	2L	Largo, Fla./Seminole
35	Wesley Jefferson	6-1/233	Fr.	RS	Clinton, Md./Gwynn Park
48	William Kershaw	6-3/233	Jr.	2L	Raeford, N.C./Hoke County
50	Jermaine Lemons	6-1/246	Fr.	RS	Tampa/Thomas Jefferson
45	Shawne Merriman	6-4/253	Jr.	2L	Upper Marlboro, Md./Frederick Douglass
44	Jeris Smith	6-2/233	So.	SQ	Eldersburg, Md./Liberty
			DEFENSIVE BACKS		
86	Chimenem Amadi (S)	5-10/198	Fr.	RS	Riverdale, Md./Laurel
21	Chris Choice (CB)	5-11/193	So.	SQ	Suitland, Md./Eleanor Roosevelt
26	Raymond Custis (S)	5-9/189	Sr.	3L	Germantown, Md./Northwest
6	Domonique Foxworth (CB)	5-11/177	Sr.	3L	Randallstown, Md./Western Tech
17	Rueben Haigler (CB)	5-10/186	Sr.	1L	New Cumberland, Pa./Lackawanna JC
27	Milton Harris (S)	5-11/195	Jr.	SQ	Lanham, Md./Delaware State
2	Chris Kelley (S)	6-2/210	Sr.	2L	Germantown, Md./Seneca Valley
38	Gerrick McPhearson (CB)	5-10/192	Jr.	1L	Columbia, Md./Howard
25	Josh Wilson (CB)	5-9/172	So.	1L	Upper Marlboro, Md./DeMatha
12	Marcus Wimbush (SS)	5-11/205	So.	1L	Washington, D.C./Dunbar
			SPECIALISTS		
47	Jon Condo (LS/LB)	6-3/241	Sr.	3L	Philipsburg, Pa./Philipsburg-Osceola
11	Dan Ennis (K)	6-0/149	So.	SQ	Sykesville, Md./Glenelg
46	Nick Novak (K)	6-0/183	Sr.	3L	Charlottesville, Va./Albemarle
36	Adam Podlesh (P)	5-11/209	So.	1L	Pittsford, N.Y./Pittsford Sutherland

The biggest concern is at strongside linebacker, where a pair of walk-ons will be fighting for the starting job—never a good situation. Sophomore David Holloway is the early leader, with Jeris Smith close behind. But don't be surprised if freshman Eric Lenz gets the job. He's a tremendous athlete.

Things are a little better on the weak side, thanks to junior William Kershaw, who made 24 tackles last year and has good size. But he could be supplanted by speedy redshirt freshman Wesley Jefferson.

Secondary—Only one starter—cornerback Domonique Foxworth—returns in this group, but there is reason for optimism. Senior cornerback Rueben Haigler, out last year with academic problems, is back and will team with Foxworth to give the Terps stability on the outside. Foxworth was a second-team All-ACC choice last season and had three interceptions. Haigler is quick and can cover but might have some rust. A large collection of candidates is vying for nickel and dime spots, with sophomore Josh Wilson and junior Gerrick McPhearson the most likely to find steady work.

Senior Raymond Custis is the probable starter at free safety. He should fend off true freshman Richard Taylor, a fine athlete who arrived on campus in time for spring drills. The strong safety spot is unsettled. Senior Chris Kelley played in all 12 games last year, but he must display sound coverage ability to beat out sophomore Marcus Wimbush, who is a big hitter but inexperienced.

SPECIAL TEAMS

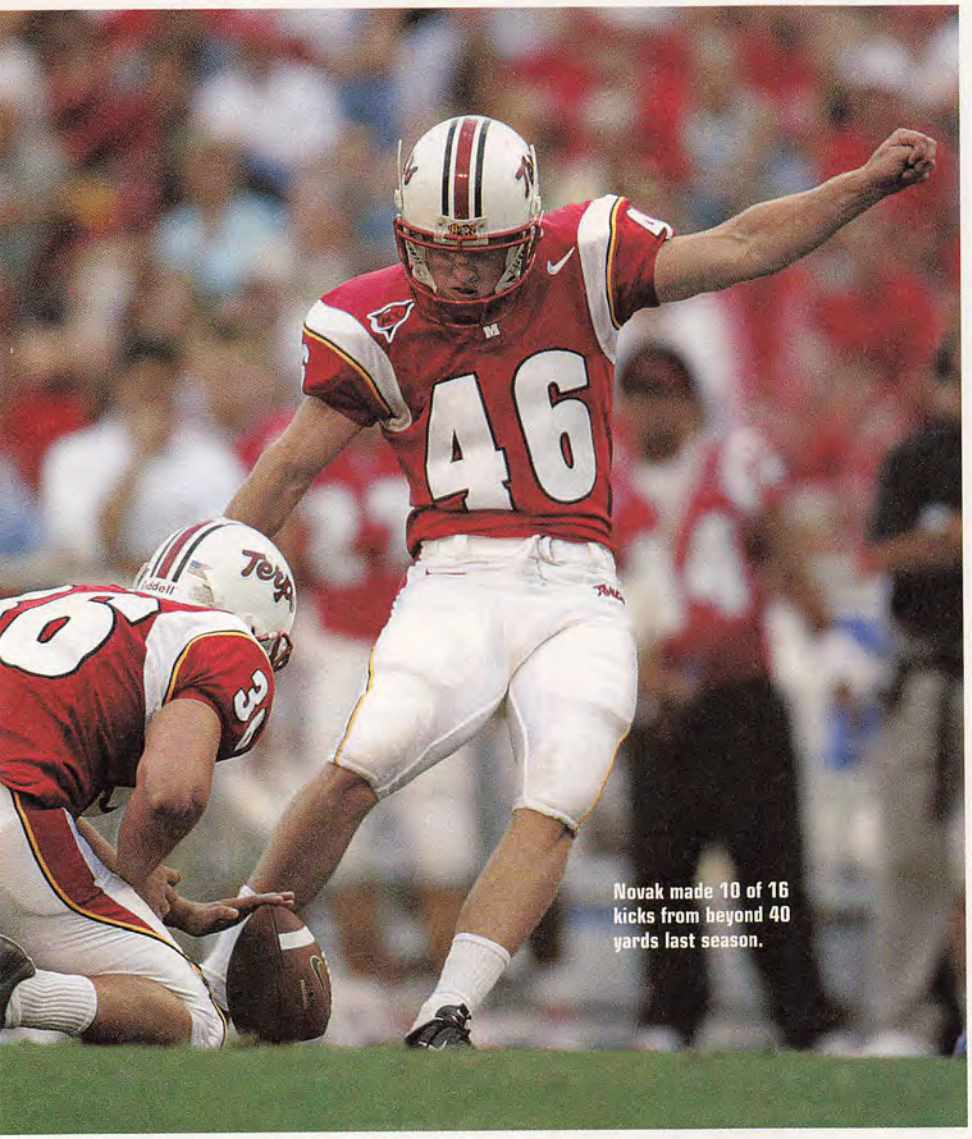
This is an undeniable strength—from all angles. Senior Nick Novak was first-team All-ACC last year after making 24 of 32 kicks, including 10 of 16 from beyond 40 yards. He's a Lou Groza candidate this year. Sophomore punter Adam Podlesh will try to improve upon a superior debut; he averaged 42.3 yards on 53 kicks and dropped 22 inside the opponent's 20. The return game is in good shape, too. Suter averaged 9.0 yards and had two touchdowns bringing back punts; he averaged 23.4 yards returning kicks. Although the punt coverage (8.8 yards per return) must improve, Maryland did block three kicks in '03.

BOTTOM LINE

It's hard to imagine the Terrapins raging to another 10-win season, no matter how strong Friedgen and his staff are. Questions at quarterback and throughout the defense make a double-digit run improbable.

That's not to say this will be a disappointing season. Maryland definitely is bowl timber, but it's unlikely the postseason berth will be of the New Year's Day variety. **TSN**

Michael Bradley is a free-lance writer based in Philadelphia.



Novak made 10 of 16 kicks from beyond 40 yards last season.

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2003 RESULTS

at Northern Illinois	L, 20-13 (OT)
at Florida State	L, 35-10
The Citadel	W, 61-0
West Virginia	W, 34-7
at Eastern Michigan	W, 37-13
Clemson	W, 21-7
Duke	W, 33-20
at Georgia Tech	L, 7-3
North Carolina	W, 59-21
Virginia	W, 27-17
at N.C. State	W, 26-24
at Wake Forest	W, 41-28
*West Virginia	W, 41-7
*Gator Bowl	

STATISTICAL LEADERS

Rushing	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Josh Allen	**186**	**922**	**5.0**	**8**
Bruce Perry	147	713	4.9	6
Sammy Maldonado	**51**	**305**	**6.0**	**3**
Scott McBrien	82	259	3.2	6

Passing	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Int.
Scott McBrien	314	173	55.1	2,672	19	6
Joel Statham	**25**	**12**	**48.0**	**156**	**0**	**1**
Orlando Evans	21	14	66.7	161	1	0

Receiving	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Latrez Harrison	39	558	14.3	6
Steve Suter	**29**	**471**	**16.2**	**1**
Jo Jo Walker	**23**	**324**	**14.1**	**3**
Rich Parson	**17**	**310**	**18.2**	**1**

Kicking	XPM	XPA	FGM	FGA	Pts.
Nick Novak	**38**	**42**	**24**	**32**	**110**
Dan Ennis	**4**	**4**	**—**	**—**	**4**

Tackles	Solo	Assists	Total	TFL/Yds.
D'Qwell Jackson	**87**	**45**	**132**	**7.5/-27**
Leon Joe	69	43	112	5.5/-21
Madieu Williams	60	26	86	—
Randy Starks	38	35	73	14.5/-69

SACKS: Shawne Merriman (8.5)
INTERCEPTIONS: Williams, **Domonique Foxworth** (3)

Returning players in bold

Team	Avg.	Rank
Rushing offense:	191.3	2nd ACC/24th nation
Rushing defense:	129.4	3rd/31st
Passing offense:	230.4	6th/44th
Passing defense:	179.0	1st/12th
Total offense:	421.7	2nd/28th
Total defense:	308.4	1st/15th
Turnover margin:	.08	7th/57th

THREE ON THE RISE

RB Lance Ball. With Josh Allen and Sammy Maldonado around, there won't be a pile of carries for Ball, but the redshirt freshman has plenty of potential, thanks to his strength and quickness. Maryland will run a lot while the quarterback situation stabilizes, so Ball will get chances. By season's end, he could be a key component.

TE Vernon Davis. Davis won't blow people off the line with his blocking, but there is some indication the tight end position will be more involved in the passing game this year, and that could be bad news for opposing defenses. Davis is quick, has good size and had a couple of big plays last year. He should develop into a threat in the middle of the field.

CB Rueben Haigler. The team needs help in the secondary, and the return of Haigler, after a year off to get his academics in order, is huge. Haigler has the speed and toughness to cover receivers one-on-one, and the success of Maryland's pass defense will depend heavily on his play.

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

Offense		Defense	
WR	Steve Suter*	**E**	Kevin Eli*
	Dan Melendez		Omarr Savage
LT	Stephon Heyer*	**NT**	Rob Armstrong
	Ryan Flynn		Justin Duffie
LG	C.J. Brooks*	**T**	Conrad Bolston
	Garrick Clig		Henry Scott
C	Kyle Schmitt*	**OLB**	Shawne Merriman*
	Ryan McDonald		Jon Condo
RG	Andrew Crummey	**MLB**	D'Qwell Jackson*
	Donnie Woods		Tim Cesa
RT	Lou Lombardo	**WLB**	William Kershaw
	Brock Choate		Wesley Jefferson
TE	Derek Miller	**SLB**	David Holloway
	Vernon Davis		Jeris Smith
WR	Derrick Fenner	**CB**	Domonique Foxworth*
	Drew Weatherly		Josh Wilson
QB	Joel Statham	**SS**	Chris Kelley
	Sam Hollenbach		Marcus Wimbush
RB	Josh Allen*	**FS**	Raymond Custis
	Sammy Maldonado		Richard Taylor
FB	Ricardo Dickerson	**CB**	Rueben Haigler
	Maurice Smith		Gerrick McPhearson
K	Nick Novak*	**P**	Adam Podlesh*
KR	Steve Suter*	**PR**	Steve Suter*

* Returning starter

KEY LOSSES

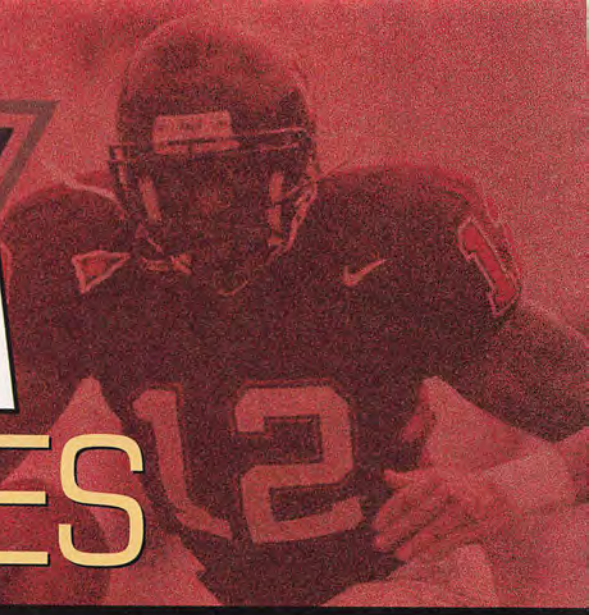
Offense

G Lamar Bryant; TE Jeff Dugan; T Eric Dumas; FB Bernie Fiddler; WR Latrez Harrison (39 rec., 558 yards, 6 TDs); QB Scott McBrien (173-of-314, 2,672, 19 TDs, 6 int.); RB Bruce Perry (147 carries, 741 yards, 6 TDs); G Ed Tyler; WR Jafar Williams (14 rec., 201 yards, 3 TDs).

Defense

T Tosin Abari; LB Leroy Ambush; CB Jamal Chance (14 tackles); CB Curome Cox (40 tackles, 2 int.); T C.J. Feldheim; LB Andrew Henley; LB Leon Joe (112 tackles); S Andrew Smith; T Randy Starks (73 tackles, 14.5 tackles for loss); S Madieu Williams (86 tackles, 3 int.); S Dennard Wilson (47 tackles).

VIRGINIA TECH HOKIES



Projected finish: 8-4 5-3/6th in conference

By Doug Doughty

A new era dawns for Virginia Tech, which enters the ACC after 13 football seasons in the Big East and, before that, more than 25 years as an independent. Virginia Tech will rejoin some of its former Southern Conference colleagues in the ACC, but Virginia is the only ACC school the Hokies have had a continuous series with.

After a 6-0 start in 2003 that elevated the Hokies to No. 3 in the polls, they lost five of their final seven games, continuing a disturbing trend. Since an 11-1 season in 2000, Virginia Tech lost three of its final five games in 2001 and four of its final five in 2002. There are questions about this year's team, especially considering the departure of a couple of underclassmen who became first-round draft picks, cornerback DeAngelo Hall and record-setting tailback Kevin Jones.

Virginia Tech didn't distinguish itself defensively when it had Hall, allowing 30 points or more in four of the final five games, including 52 to California in the Insight Bowl. The Hokies were seventh in the Big East in pass defense and pass-efficiency defense and remain vulnerable in those areas. Offensively, Tech had a 1,000-yard rusher in four of the past five seasons but does not have an obvious candidate this year.

Tapp

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SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	TSN pick
Aug. 28	USC*	L
Sept. 11	Western Michigan	W
Sept. 18	Duke	W
Sept. 25	N.C. State	W
Oct. 2	West Virginia	W
Oct. 9	at Wake Forest	W
Oct. 16	Florida A&M	W
Oct. 28	at Georgia Tech	L
Nov. 6	at North Carolina	W
Nov. 18	Maryland	L
Nov. 27	Virginia	W
Dec. 4	at Miami	L

*at Landover, Md.

Strength of schedule rank
Conference: 9 Nation: 48

GAME OF THE YEAR

No one will give the Hokies much of a chance against the national co-champions, their opponents in the Black Coaches' Association Football Classic, but these are teams that were mentioned in the same breath for the first half of the 2003 season. Even if Tech fails to upset the Trojans, a respectable performance would go a long way in restoring the credibility it lost late last season.

It's conceivable Tech will have the crowd in its favor in each of its first seven games, including five home games. The other games are in Landover, Md., near a huge Hokies fan base in the Washington, D.C., area, and at Wake Forest. Wake's home in Winston-Salem, N.C., is closer to Blacksburg than any other ACC venue. Three of Tech's last five games are on the road, creating the potential for another late-season swoon. If Tech can maneuver its way through the first four of those five games, its December 4 trip to Miami could be as meaningful as any of its games against the Hurricanes have been.

COACHING

Strategies—Even when Michael Vick played for the Hokies, he occasionally disappeared from the national statistics because he didn't have enough passing attempts to qualify. The Hokies have relied on a time-consuming running game under coach Frank Beamer, and why not? Before Jones set a school record in 2003 by rushing for 1,647 yards, Tech had Lee Suggs, who had 53 career rushing touchdowns, including 27 in 2000. Because of Jones' departure, Tech might need to rely more on its passing game and senior quarterback Bryan Randall.

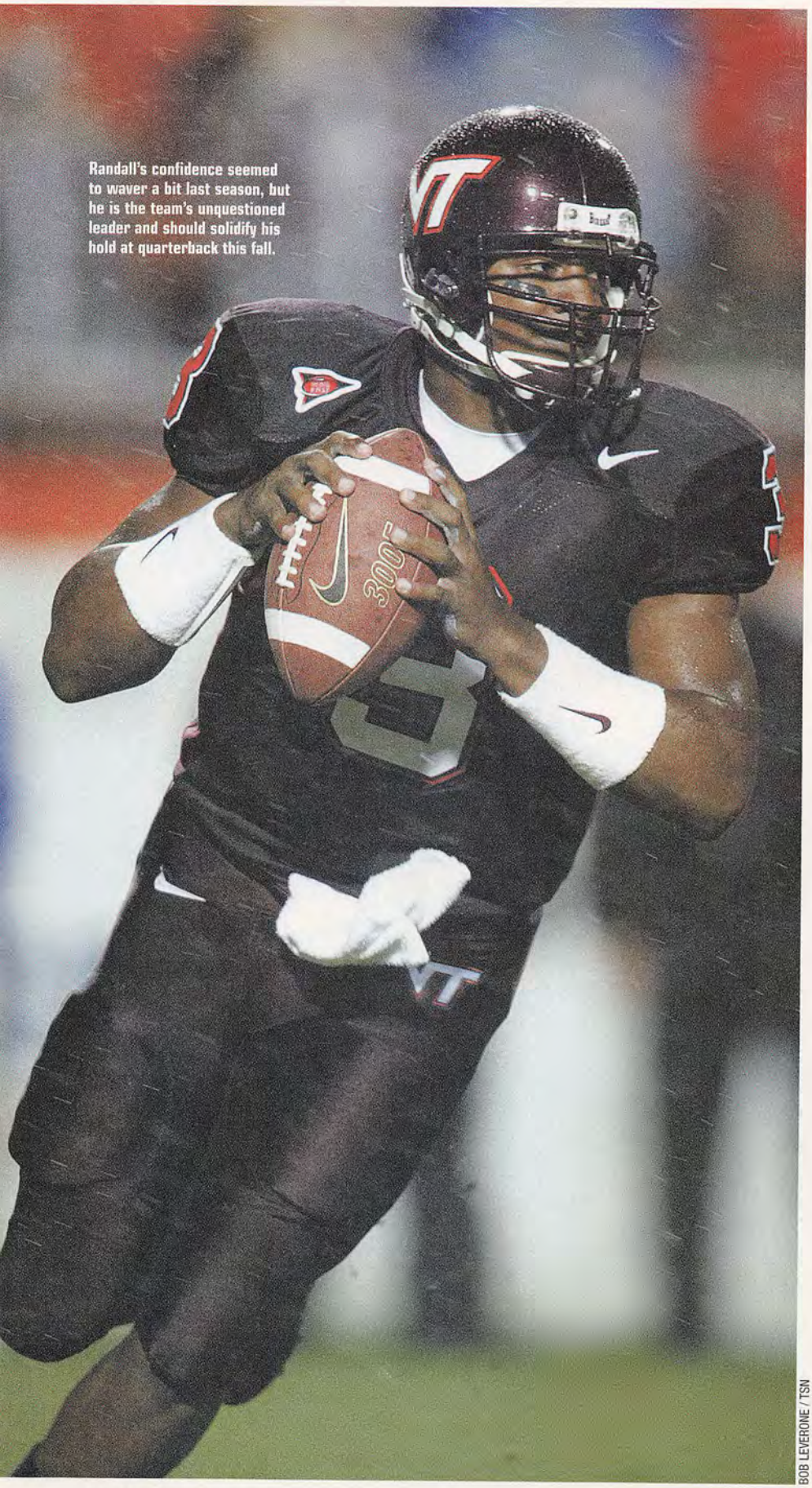
Defensively, there have been calls for coordinator Bud Foster to review a scheme that had its roots in the wide-tackle six favored by Beamer's college coach, Jerry Claiborne. Tech did not have a player with more than Cols Colas' 6½ sacks last season, and opponents were able to exploit the single coverage the Hokies frequently employ. Tech couldn't get to opposing quarterbacks late in the 2003 season and paid a stiff price.

Style—Beamer is one of the few coaches in the country who takes almost full responsibility for the kicking game. The Hokies' knack for blocking kicks and scoring defensive touchdowns is responsible for the moniker "Beamer Ball." Even last year, only 50 of Tech's 61 touchdowns came from rushing attempts (33) or passes (17). Six were on interception or fumble returns. But even

More on Virginia Tech at foxsports.com/named/FS/CFB/teams

Humes has the talent to handle the starting tailback job, but he is coming off a broken leg and must overcome fumbling problems.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN



Randall's confidence seemed to waver a bit last season, but he is the team's unquestioned leader and should solidify his hold at quarterback this fall.

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Beamer would admit that the kicking game was inconsistent last year.

Beamer, not previously known as a stern coach, let his players know after the season that a lack of discipline on and off the field might have contributed to the Hokies' late-season demise. But in February, redshirt freshman quarterback Marcus Vick and two teammates were arrested after an incident involving three underage girls in their apartment. In a roundabout way, the problems might help Beamer get his players' attention this year.

OFFENSE

Quarterbacks—The Hokies went back and forth between Randall and Vick last year, with Randall getting most of the playing time and Vick moving to wide receiver for the Insight Bowl. Randall was fabulous over a 6-0 stretch in the first half of the season, but a 28-7 loss at West Virginia prompted Beamer to adopt an ill-fated platoon system that left fans in an uproar. Randall, previously one of the nation's most efficient passers, seemingly lost his confidence. Vick was erratic.

Another Randall-Vick battle seemed likely until Vick's arrest on four misdemeanor counts of contributing to the delinquency of a minor, creating some uncertainty about his status. Vick practiced in the spring and looked sharp at times. Randall played for the Hokies' overachieving basketball team over the winter and became even more of a fan

An ACC coach says...

Bryan Randall did some good things last year, but I think he was hurt by the fact **Marcus Vick** was there behind him. He wasn't sure if he was going to be replaced if he didn't play well. I think it was a good idea putting Vick at wide receiver late in the season. Just getting him on the field made a difference and let him use his athletic ability. ... From what I saw behind Kevin Jones last year, I think they'll have some trouble at running back. This isn't like it was when Jones was backing up Lee Suggs a couple years back. If they had someone who was talented, they would have used him some. ... I don't think they have anything special at wide receiver. But they have used four wideouts more frequently in the past couple years, and they've gone with more motion. That has helped them keep defenses off-balance. ... Their offensive line always plays rough and tough. They don't always have superstars, but they are physical. ... They're going to make some changes on defense because they haven't been happy with what they've been doing. Teams have started to figure them out. Teams have been able to expose their perimeter with play action because that messes with Tech's keys and the players' ability to go at full speed. ... **Vincent Fuller** is fast and athletic, but I don't see the same kind of talent around him in the secondary as they've had in the past.

favorite. Randall passed for more than 4,000 yards during the past two seasons and completed better than 60 percent of his passes each year. He also has cut down on turnovers and is an unquestioned team leader.

Running backs—Highly regarded prospect George Bell graduated from high school in December and enrolled at Tech in time to compete with Cedric Humes and Mike Imoh in the spring. Humes was the primary backup to Jones in 2003, and his 5.8-yard average compared to Jones' 5.9; however, Humes had fumble issues that must be resolved and is coming off a broken leg suffered in the spring.

At 5-7, 196, Imoh does not fit the traditional Tech tailback model, but he figures to be in the mix. Imoh was Tech's principal kickoff returner last season and caught three touchdown passes in limited duty as a wide receiver. He carried the ball from scrimmage only 22 times, but he has to be considered a viable alternative to Humes and Bell. Humes and Imoh do not have Jones' game-breaking speed, and Bell needs to prove his durability after missing considerable time in high school because of injuries.

Tech fans might not realize how much they will miss fullback Doug Easlick. Easlick's backup last year, Jeff King also was the Hokies' No. 2 tight end. Humes could play fullback if he is not the starting tailback.

Receivers—Converted running back Justin Hamilton was Tech's second-leading receiver in 2003 but had only 23 receptions and is not as tall or as fast as Ernest Wilford, who had 55 as a senior. It is questionable whether Hamilton, redshirt freshman Josh Hyman or junior Chris Clifton can become Randall's go-to guy.

Look for an immediate impact from freshmen, led by 2003 Washington, D.C., Metro offensive player of the year Eddie Royal and fellow Virginia all-state choice Jeremy Gilchrist. The sleeper is Josh Morgan, who took part in spring practice after spending the first semester at Fork Union (Va.) Military Academy.

Tech never has thrown much to its tight ends, a philosophy the Hokies frequently vow to change.

Line—Someone must step up, considering the departures of center Jake Grove, a consensus All-American, and Jacob Gibson, a starter whose ability to play a number of line positions was invaluable in the case of injury. A player who quietly has come to the forefront is left guard Will Montgomery, a former walk-on who gained a starting job in 2003 despite having played in only two games the previous year. If Montgomery makes a move to center, the question mark will be at guard, where junior Reggie Butler could do battle against former backups Brandon Gore and James Miller.

Tech is in good shape with Jon Dunn and Jimmy Martin as its returning starting tackles. Last season, Dunn showed signs of becoming the dominant force that his size (6-7, 341) would suggest. Tech expects big things from Martin.

NICKEL PACKAGE

Five things to look for

1. There must be a clear division between quarterbacks Bryan Randall and Marcus Vick, or it will be a seasonlong distraction again.
2. It's time to get the kicking game in order. The Hokies haven't had a kicker they could trust with a game-winning field goal attempt since Shayne Graham in 2000.
3. Dependable cover corners must step forward. If a move from safety doesn't agree with Jimmy Williams, Eric Green and Vinnie Fuller will have to play better than they did last year.
4. Tech must keep opposing defenses honest with the run, which means that Cedric Humes needs to curb his fumble problems and the tailbacks have to remain injury free.
5. A wide receiver must emerge with Ernest Wilford gone. It's time for Justin Hamilton to complete the transition from running back.

QUICK HITS

Stadium: Lane (grass, 65,115)
Site: Blacksburg, Va.
Tickets: 800-828-3244

COACHING STAFF

Head coach: Frank Beamer (125-74-2, 17 years; 167-97-4 overall, 23 years)
Assistant head coach/offensive coordinator/offensive line: Bryan Stinespring (3rd year, 12th overall)
Assistant head coach/running backs: Billy Hite (27th year)
Defensive coordinator/inside linebackers: Bud Foster (10th year, 21st overall)
Wide receivers: Tony Ball (7th year)
Strong safeties/outside linebackers/recruiting coordinator: Jim Cavanaugh (9th year)
Tight ends/offensive tackles: Danny Pearman (7th year)
Quarterbacks: Kevin Rogers (3rd year)
Defensive backs: Lorenzo Ward (6th year)
Defensive line: Charley Wiles (9th year)

FORMATIONS AND FIGURES

Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Last league title won: 1999
Last time didn't go to a bowl: 1992
2003 TSN preseason rank: 15
2003 record: 8-5 (lost to California in Insight Bowl); Big East: 4-3/4th
Website: www.hokiesports.com

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

RECRUITING

2004 CLASS

RATINGS BY RIVALS.COM

NAME	POS.	HT./WT.	HOMETOWN/SCHOOL
★★★★★ AMONG THE NATION'S TOP 30 PROSPECTS			
None			
★★★★ AMONG THE NATION'S TOP 200 PROSPECTS			
George Bell	RB	5-11/225	Fayetteville, N.C./Jack Britt
Sean Glennon	QB	6-3/185	Centreville, Va./Westfield
Eddie Royal	WR	5-10/170	Herndon, Va./Westfield
★★★ AMONG THE NATION'S TOP 600 PROSPECTS			
Andrew Bowman	LB	6-1/225	Glen Allen, Va./Hermitage
Brandon Flowers	CB	5-9/175	Delray Beach, Fla./Hargrave Military Aca. (Va.)
Jeremy Gilchrist	WR	5-10/180	Virginia Beach, Va./Landstown
Justin Harper	WR	6-4/205	Catawba, N.C./Hargrave Military Academy (Va.)
Cory Holt	QB	6-5/210	Lexington, N.C./Hargrave Military Academy (Va.)
Carl Howard	DT	6-4/290	Cliffwood, N.J./Matawan
Josh Morgan	WR	6-2/217	Washington, D.C./Fork Union Military Aca. (Va.)
Maurice Reevey	ATH	6-3/225	Highland Springs, Va./Fork Union Mil. Aca. (Va.)
★★ SOLID DIVISION I PROSPECT			
Michael Green	ATH	6-0/240	Westville, N.J./Deptford
Brandon Holland	OL	6-4/280	Delray Beach, Fla./Hargrave Military Aca. (Va.)
Theodore Miller	CB	6-2/181	Washington, D.C./H.D. Woodson
Branden Ore	RB	6-0/205	Chesapeake, Va./Indian River
D.J. Parker	CB	6-0/185	Hamton, Va./Hargrave Military Academy (Va.)
Ryan Shuman	OL	6-3/262	Fork Union, Va./Fort Union Military Academy (Va.)
Purnell Sturdivant	FB	5-10/220	Norfolk, Va./Lake Taylor
Sam Wheeler	ATH	6-3/235	Blacksburg, Va./Blacksburg

INSIDE DISH

Virginia Tech followed up a solid season with another typically good recruiting effort. The No. 41 class ranking won't open many eyes, but the Hokies compiled their class with only 19 scholarships and upgraded athleticism across the board in preparation for their move to the ACC. … **Frank Beamer** targeted the skill positions and came away with an impressive group of players that should give the Hokies speed and game-breaking ability. … The receiver haul is particularly impressive, headlined by four-star prospect **Eddie Royal**, who caught 41 passes for 875 yards and 11 touchdowns as a senior. Virginia Tech beat Tennessee and Virginia for his services. Diminutive **Jeremy Gilchrist** also was a top 50 wideout, and the Hokies added two prep school standouts in **Josh Morgan** and **Justin Harper**. … The quarterback of the future could be **Sean Glennon**, a four-star player rated the No. 10 pro-style prospect in the nation. He was Royal's teammate at Westfield, throwing for 1,840 yards and 26 touchdowns with only four interceptions as a senior. … The running back spot is in good hands for the future with the addition of **George Bell**. The four-star North Carolina product was ranked No. 12 at his position nationally. He suffered a knee injury as a junior and was limited to three games last season, but he is well on his way to recovery. Bell enrolled at Virginia Tech early and went through spring drills. … Linebacker **Andrew Bowman** should add to the Hokies' growing reputation as a defensive power. Landing him takes some sting out of losing the state's top prospect, linebacker Olu Hall, to Virginia. *—Rivals.com*

DEFENSE

Line—The Hokies missed senior Jim Davis, who suffered a torn pectoral muscle in the week before 2003 spring drills started and sat out the entire season. Fortunately, Davis had a redshirt year at his disposal, and his return comes at a good time as Tech attempts to replace starting defensive ends Nathaniel Adibi and Colas. The Hokies might have been lost this year without Davis, who had 23 tackles for loss and 13½ sacks in his first three seasons.

Darryl Tapp, considered one of the top two prospects in Virginia two years ago, has a chance to become a regular and could be ready for a breakout year at the other end. Nolan Burchette received ample playing time last year as a redshirt freshman.

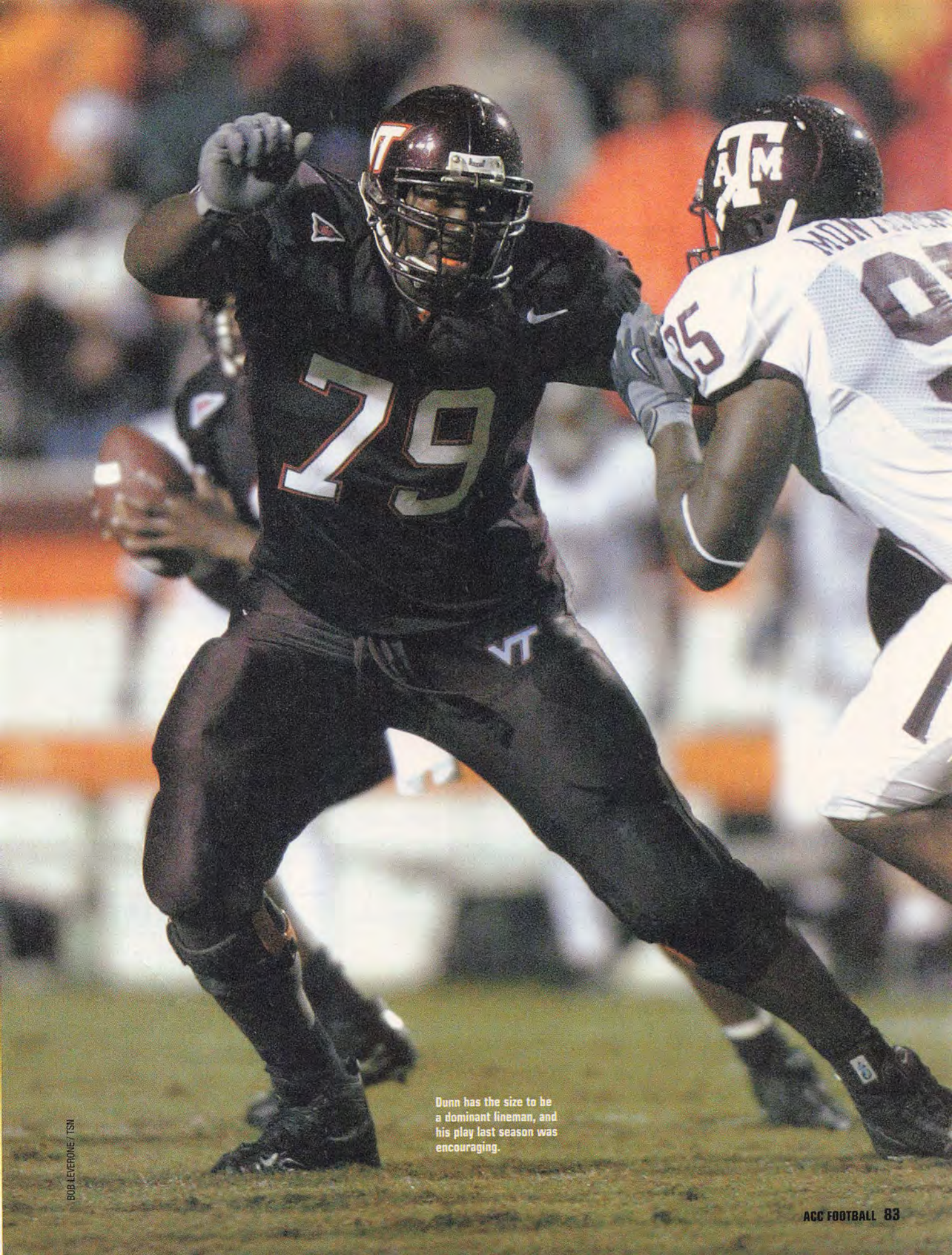
At tackle, this will be the final opportunity for the Lewis brothers, senior Kevin and junior Jonathan, to play together. They have experienced backups in Tim Sandidge and Jason Lallis, although Lallis had an injury that caused him to miss spring practice. Redshirt freshmen Barry Booker, Kory Robertson and Carlton Powell could press for early playing time and allow the veterans to get plenty of rest on what should be one of the team's best units.

Linebackers—Although Tech returns two linebackers with more than 100 tackles apiece, Mikal Baaqee and Brandon Manning, there has been considerable buzz surrounding two top recruits who were redshirted last season, Xavier Adibi (Nathaniel's brother) and Vince Hall. Xavier Adibi was rated the top prospect in Virginia after the 2002 season and represents an upgrade in size and athletic ability over the returning players inside. At 6-3, 229, Xavier Adibi needed an extra year to get stronger; however, the Hokies want to make sure Hall, who was over 250 at one point last year, doesn't get much bigger. He was down to 237 by the start of preseason practice.

Not to be overlooked are a pair of rangy returnees with good size, Jordan Trott (6-4, 238) and Blake Warren (6-3, 246). Warren is the oldest son of former Redskins tight end Donnie Warren, whose middle son, Brett, enrolled at midsemester. Last year, Blake Warren backed up Vegas Robinson. Now, he will battle Adibi for the starting job.

In Tech's scheme, former walk-on Manning was the "whip," a hybrid linebacker position that combines elements of the outside linebacker and safety spots. But Manning was passed on the depth chart in spring practice by junior James Anderson, with sophomore Aaron Rouse also close on his heels.

Secondary—The Hokies knew they would lose DeAngelo Hall, whose sensational athletic ability had NFL scouts drooling. The other cornerback, Eric Green, frequently was victimized down the stretch and needs to show improvement as a senior. The same goes for Vinnie Fuller, also a senior, who



Dunn has the size to be a dominant lineman, and his play last season was encouraging.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

HOKIES ROSTER

NO.	NAME	HT./WT.	CL.	EXP.	HOMETOWN/PREVIOUS SCHOOL
			QUARTERBACKS		
3	Bryan Randall	6-0/222	Sr.	3L	Williamsburg, Va./Bruton
5	Marcus Vick	6-0/213	So.	1L	Newport News, Va./Warwick
			RUNNING BACKS		
44	John Candelas	6-0/211	Jr.	SQ	Blacksburg, Va./Blacksburg
32	Cedric Humes	6-1/230	Jr.	2L	Virginia Beach, Va./Princess Anne
20	Mike Imoh	5-7/196	Jr.	1L	Fairfax, Va./Robinson
43	John Kinzer (FB)	6-2/246	Fr.	RS	Fairfax, Va./Robinson
			RECEIVERS/TIGHT ENDS		
89	Duane Brown (TE)	6-5/264	Fr.	RS	Richmond, Va./Hermitage
16	Chris Clifton	6-4/205	Jr.	2L	Chesapeake, Va./Deep Creek
87	David Clowney	6-1/178	So.	1L	Delray Beach, Fla./Atlantic
27	Justin Hamilton	6-3/219	Jr.	2L	Clintwood, Va./Clintwood
82	Brenden Hill	6-2/207	Fr.	RS	Newport News, Va./Warwick
19	Josh Hyman	5-11/191	Fr.	RS	Chesapeake, Va./Fork Union Military Academy (Va.)
12	Richard Johnson	5-10/187	Sr.	3L	Baltimore/Milford Mill Academy
90	Jeff King (TE)	6-5/256	Jr.	2L	Pulaski, Va./Pulaski County
88	Michael Malone	6-3/212	So.	1L	Friendswood, Texas/Friendswood
85	Jared Mazzetta (TE)	6-4/259	Sr.	3L	Flemington, N.J./Hunterdon Central
80	Robert Parker	6-1/210	So.	SQ	Chesapeake, Va./Oscar Smith
			OFFENSIVE LINEMEN		
61	Reggie Butler (T)	6-6/339	Jr.	1L	Keswick, Va./Monticello
57	Tripp Carroll (C)	6-4/325	Fr.	RS	Charlotte/Andrew Jackson (Fla.)
79	Jon Dunn (T)	6-7/341	Sr.	3L	Virginia Beach, Va./Tallwood
77	Brandon Gore (G)	6-5/351	So.	1L	Warrenton, Va./Liberty
67	Nick Marshman (T)	6-5/333	Fr.	HS	Harrisonburg, Va./Turner Ashby
52	Jimmy Martin (T)	6-5/289	Jr.	2L	Chantilly, Va./Fork Union Military Academy (Va.)
69	Danny McGrath (C)	6-2/294	So.	SQ	Herndon, Va./Herndon
76	James Miller (G)	6-6/299	Sr.	2L	Pompano Beach, Fla./Ft. Lauderdale
66	Will Montgomery (G)	6-3/296	Jr.	1L	Clifton, Va./Centreville
72	Jason Murphy (G)	6-2/301	Jr.	1L	Baltimore/Edmondson Westside
58	Chris Pannell (T)	6-4/296	Jr.	SQ	Staunton, Va./Robert E. Lee
50	Mike Parham (C)	6-0/273	So.	SQ	Petersburg, Va./Petersburg
68	Robert Ramsey (C)	6-2/307	Sr.	SQ	Coraopolis, Pa./Montour
51	Matt Welsh (G)	6-4/289	Fr.	HS	Clifton, Va./Centreville
			DEFENSIVE LINEMEN		
59	Barry Booker (T)	6-4/295	Fr.	RS	Amherst, Va./Amherst
96	Noland Burchette (E)	6-2/245	So.	1L	Richmond, Va./Highland Springs
95	Jim Davis (E)	6-3/276	Sr.	3L	Highland Springs, Va./Fork Union Military Academy (Va.)
49	Chris Ellis (E)	6-4/257	Fr.	RS	Hampton, Va./Bethel
91	Jason Lallis (T)	6-0/250	Sr.	3L	Mitchellville, Md./DeMatha
56	Jonathan Lewis (T)	6-1/300	Jr.	2L	Richmond, Va./Varina
70	Kevin Lewis (T)	6-1/288	Sr.	3L	Richmond, Va./Varina
86	Isaac Montgomery (T)	6-4/284	Sr.	1L	Princeton, W. Va./University of North Carolina
99	Carlton Powell (T)	6-2/287	Fr.	RS	Chesapeake, Va./Great Bridge
75	Kory Robertson (T)	6-2/317	Fr.	RS	Martinsville, Va./Magna Vista
54	Bob Ruff (E)	6-1/238	Sr.	1L	McMurray, Pa./Peters Township
71	Tim Sandidge (T)	6-1/304	Jr.	2L	Madison Heights, Va./Amherst County
55	Darryl Tapp (E)	6-1/264	Jr.	2L	Chesapeake, Va./Deep Creek
41	Jordan Trott (E)	6-4/238	Jr.	2L	Torrance, Calif./Loyola
			LINEBACKERS		
11	Xavier Adibi	6-3/229	Fr.	RS	Hampton, Va./Phoebus
42	James Anderson	6-2/222	Jr.	2L	Chesapeake, Va./Deep Creek
45	Mikal Baaqee	5-10/225	Sr.	3L	Columbia, Md./DeMatha
33	Chad Cooper	6-2/192	Sr.	3L	Herndon, Va./Oakton
22	James Griffin	6-1/198	Sr.	1L	Memphis/Pasadena City College (Calif.)
99	Vince Hall	6-0/237	Fr.	RS	Chesapeake, Va./Western Branch
48	Brandon Manning	6-0/220	Sr.	3L	Harrisburg, Pa./U.S. Air Force Academy Prep School
36	Aaron Rouse	6-3/210	So.	1L	Virginia Beach, Va./First Colonial
30	Cary Wade	5-10/179	So.	1L	Fairfax, Va./Robinson
24	D.J. Walton	5-9/193	Jr.	1L	Woodbridge, Va./C.D. Hylton
40	Blake Warren	6-3/246	Jr.	2L	Clifton, Va./Centreville
			DEFENSIVE BACKS		
31	Mike Daniels (S)	6-0/212	Sr.	3L	Fairfax, Va./Fairfax
8	Vincent Fuller (S)	6-1/184	Sr.	3L	Baltimore/Woodlawn
28	Corey Gordon (S)	6-2/212	Fr.	RS	Gainesville, Fla./Hargrave Military Academy (Va.)
1	Eric Green (CB)	6-0/197	Sr.	3L	Clewiston, Fla./Clewiston
29	Brian McPherson (CB)	5-10/189	So.	SQ	Madison Heights, Va./Amherst County
15	Roland Minor (CB)	6-0/196	Fr.	RS	Washington, D.C./H.D. Woodson
2	Jimmy Williams (CB)	6-3/213	Jr.	2L	Hampton, Va./Bethel
			SPECIALISTS		
38	Vinnie Burns (P)	5-11/202	Sr.	3L	New Orleans/St. Augustine
62	Travis Conway (DS)	6-5/267	Sr.	2L	Richmond, Va./J.R. Tucker
53	Nick Leeson (LS)	6-1/242	So.	1L	Abingdon, Va./Abingdon
46	Brandon Pace (K)	5-10/199	So.	1L	Virginia Beach, Va./Kellam
23	Nic Schmitt (P)	6-1/260	So.	SQ	Salem, Va./Salem
92	Jeff Scudder (K)	6-0/202	Jr.	SQ	Springfield, Va./West Springfield

demonstrated considerable prowess early in his career but has shuffled between safety and cornerback without turning into an all-star performer.

In the spring, Tech moved safety Jimmy Williams to corner and returned Fuller to his natural safety spot. Whatever the configuration, the Hokies need them all to be more consistent. After an impressive freshman year, Williams took a step backward last year.

The other safety is classified as a "rover," another hybrid position. As a senior last season, Michael Crawford had a team-high 131 tackles, including 12 for loss. Former junior college star James Griffin will vie with Cary Wade. Redshirt freshman Michael Hinton also would have figured in the mix but was booted from the team after an offseason arrest.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Seldom have special teams played as big a part in a Tech loss as they did last year at the Insight Bowl, in which Carter Warley missed three field-goal attempts before the Hokies turned to backup Brandon Pace. Pace was 3-for-3 on extra points, the last of which created a 49-49 tie, but his subsequent kickoff went out of bounds and gave Cal a short field for its winning field goal. Warley earlier had booted a kickoff out of bounds, and what had been a decent year ended in disaster.

Pace probably will get first crack at the kicking job, with his rivals to include Nic Schmitt, a 6-1, 260-pound bruiser who was redshirted in 2003 after going 2-for-6 on field goals in 2002. If Pace and Schmitt can't do the job, redshirt freshman John Hedge could become a factor.

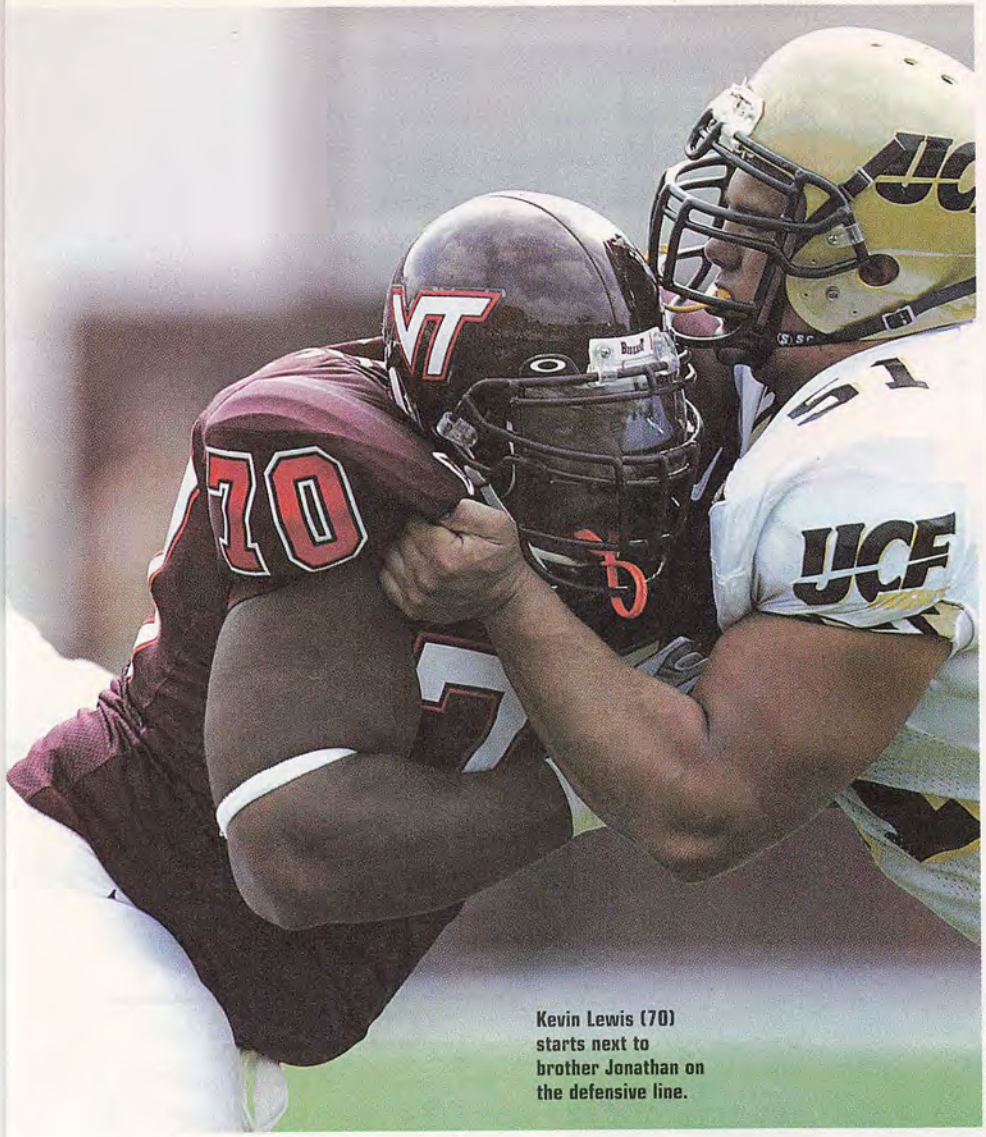
The punter is Vinnie Burns, a Ray Guy Award finalist in 2002 whose average dipped from 40.5 in 2002 to 39.8 last year.

Imoh, who averaged 30.5 yards on kickoff returns and had a 91-yarder for a touchdown last season, probably will get the first look among potential punt returners. Ultimately, that job could go to Royal.

BOTTOM LINE

During the offseason, some members of the traditional ACC media considered the Hokies as a candidate for eighth place in the league. If that's where Tech is picked, it will serve as a rallying cry for a program that has had 11 straight winning seasons, including seven with at least nine victories. If the Hokies can get to a bowl, which will be tough in an 11-team conference with only six tie-ins, it would represent a respectable ACC debut. However, there will be little of the BCS talk that has accompanied recent torrid starts. **TSN**

Doug Doughty covers ACC football for the Roanoke Times.



Kevin Lewis (70) starts next to brother Jonathan on the defensive line.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

2003 RESULTS

Central Florida	W, 49-28
James Madison	W, 43-0
Texas A&M	W, 35-19
Connecticut	W, 47-13
at Rutgers	W, 48-22
Syracuse	W, 51-7
at West Virginia	L, 28-7
Miami (Fla.)	W, 31-7
at Pittsburgh	L, 31-28
at Temple	W, 24-23 (OT)
Boston College	L, 34-27
at Virginia	L, 35-21
*California	L, 52-49

*Insight Bowl

STATISTICAL LEADERS

Rushing	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Kevin Jones	281	1,647	5.9	21
Bryan Randall	**82**	**404**	**4.9**	**5**
Cedric Humes	**65**	**380**	**5.8**	**5**

Passing	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Int.
Bryan Randall	**245**	**150**	**61.2**	**1,996**	**15**	**10**
Marcus Vick	**57**	**30**	**52.6**	**475**	**2**	**5**

Receiving	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Ernest Wilford	55	886	16.1	3
Justin Hamilton	**23**	**282**	**12.3**	**1**

Kicking	XPM	XPA	FGM	FGA	Pts.
Carter Warley	54	57	12	18	90
Brandon Pace	**4**	**4**	**—**	**—**	**4**

Tackles	Solo	Assists	Total	TFL/Yds.
Michael Crawford	72	59	131	12/-29
Jimmy Williams	**63**	**51**	**114**	**4/-11**
Mikal Baaqee	**64**	**45**	**109**	**3/-6**
Brandon Manning	**59**	**45**	**104**	**5/-27**
Vegas Robinson	58	43	101	8/-27
DeAngelo Hall	63	30	93	3/-11

SACKS: Cols Colas (6.5)
INTERCEPTIONS: **Eric Green** (3)

Returning players in bold

Team	Avg.	Rank
Rushing offense:	209.3	2nd Big East/17th nation
Rushing defense:	136.0	4th/39th
Passing offense:	192.5	6th/82nd
Passing defense:	231.5	7th/76th
Total offense:	401.8	3rd/38th
Total defense:	367.5	4th/51st
Turnover margin:	-.08	6th/65th

KEY LOSSES

Offense

FB Doug Easlick; G Jacob Gibson; C Jake Grove; RB Kevin Jones (281 carries, 1,647 yards, 21 TDs); WR Chris Shreve; K Carter Warley (12-of-18 FGs, 90 pts.); WR Ernest Wilford (55 rec., 886 yards, 3 TDs); TE Keith Willis.

Defense

E Nathaniel Adibi; E Cols Colas; LB Michael Crawford (team-high 131 tackles, 12 tackles for loss);CB DeAngelo Hall (93 tackles); LB Vegas Robinson (101 tackles, 8 tackles for loss); CB Garnell Wilds.

THREE ON THE RISE

WR David Clowney. Clowney, the last player signed by the Hokies in their 2003 recruiting class, was so impressive upon his arrival at Tech that he played as a true freshman. Although Clowney finished with only five receptions, he played in 12 of 13 games and showed the kind of breakaway speed that separates him from the veteran wide receivers.

LB Aaron Rouse. In his third year in the program, Rouse, a safety in high school, has developed an understanding of the Tech scheme that will make it hard for the Hokies to keep him on the bench. He spelled Brandon Manning last year and should challenge Manning for the starting job this year.

DE Darryl Tapp. Frequently overlooked on last year's team, Tapp put up some impressive numbers, including nine tackles for loss and 17 quarterback hurries, second on the team behind senior defensive end Nathaniel Adibi. With the increased playing time that will come from starting, Tapp should turn some heads this fall.

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

	Offense		Defense
WR	Chris Clifton Robert Parker	E	Noland Burchette Chris Ellis
LT	Jimmy Martin* Jason Murphy	T	Kevin Lewis* Tim Sandidge
LG	Reggie Butler Brandon Gore	T	Jonathan Lewis* Isaac Montgomery
C	Will Montgomery* Robert Ramsey	E	Jim Davis Darryl Tapp
RG	James Miller Jason Murphy	OLB	James Anderson Brandon Manning*
RT	Jon Dunn* Chris Pannell	ILB	Mikal Baaqee* Vince Hall
TE	Jeff King Jared Mazzetta	ILB	Blake Warren Xavier Adibi
WR	Josh Hyman David Clowney	CB	Eric Green D.J. Parker
QB	Bryan Randall* Marcus Vick	ROV	James Griffin Cary Wade
RB	Cedric Humes Mike Imoh	FS	Vincent Fuller Mike Daniels
FB	John Kinzer George Bell	CB	Jimmy Williams* Roland Minor
K	Brandon Pace	P	Vinnie Burns*
KR	Mike Imoh	PR	Mike Imoh

* Returning starter

N.C. STATE WOLFPACK

Projected finish: 7-4 4-4/7th in conference

By Ken Tysiac

Chuck Amato has accomplished a lot at N.C. State. He has coached the Wolfpack to three bowl victories in four seasons, including a 56-26 rout of Kansas in the Tangerine Bowl last season. He has defeated Florida State twice. After N.C. State went 8-5 last season, Amato is 34-17, with a winning percentage higher than any Wolfpack coach since Lou Holtz went 33-12-3 from 1972-75.

But Amato accomplished none of that without Philip Rivers, the four-year starting quarterback who turned the N.C. State passing record book on its ear. Rivers finished his career with 13,484 passing yards and 95 touchdown passes. More important, he was a great leader who commanded respect from teammates as he dissected opposing defenses. And now he's gone.

Amato will have to get by without him against a schedule that includes Ohio State, Virginia Tech, Miami and Florida State. That makes the Wolfpack one of the most uncertain commodities in the nation this season.

But N.C. State appears to have the talent to be a winning team in the ACC. Tailback T.A. McLendon possesses a rare blend of speed and power and should be ready to shoulder more responsibility as the Wolfpack breaks in a new quarterback. Amato believed Rivers could lead N.C. State so effectively that recruiting would improve and the level of the entire program would be raised even after Rivers left. Now it's time to see if that's true.

Reid

PAUL NISELY / TSN

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	TSN pick
Sept. 4	Richmond	W
Sept. 18	Ohio State	W
Sept. 25	at Virginia Tech	L
Oct. 2	Wake Forest	W
Oct. 9	at North Carolina	W
Oct. 16	at Maryland	L
Oct. 23	Miami	L
Oct. 30	at Clemson	L
Nov. 6	Georgia Tech	W
Nov. 11	Florida State	W
Nov. 27	East Carolina*	W

*at Charlotte

Strength of schedule rank
Conference: 7
Nation: 38

GAME OF THE YEAR

The Wolfpack's 44-38 loss in three overtimes last season in Columbus was one of the most memorable games in N.C. State history. The rematch sets up perfectly for the Wolfpack.

N.C. State opens against Richmond, then has an open date before playing host to the Buckeyes on September 18. A victory would give the Wolfpack a huge shot of confidence at the start of the post-Philip Rivers era.

If Chuck Amato had known the perils he would face in ACC play, he might never have allowed the Ohio State game to stay on the schedule. Following that game, the Wolfpack visits new ACC member Virginia Tech. Miami and Florida State come to Raleigh later in the season, and N.C. State has difficult assignments at Maryland and Clemson. Amato couldn't have been happy to see Duke dropped from his conference schedule when Virginia Tech and Miami were added. The only break the Wolfpack catches comes in its season finale against East Carolina. That might be the victory State needs to solidify its bowl resume.

COACHING

Strategies—Like his mentor, Florida State coach Bobby Bowden, Amato likes to attack. Amato will throw 40 times a game if he has a capable quarterback, and he occasionally hurts opponents with trick plays. He places his best players on special teams, and their aggressiveness makes the Wolfpack one of the most productive teams in the nation at blocking kicks.

But the defense lost its aggressive edge last season, giving up 29.6 points per game. Amato, who had been coordinating the defense, saw that it was time for a change. He handed the reins to former Clemson defensive coordinator Reggie Herring, a fiery guy who had been coaching linebackers for the Houston Texans. Herring won't sit back and let opponents attack his defense, and he will improve the Wolfpack or destroy his vocal cords yelling at the players.

Offensive coordinator Noel Mazzone also fits in nicely with Amato's philosophy. Mazzone likes to use the shotgun and lots of formations and trick plays. But with an inexperienced quarterback, Mazzone might have to play more conservatively and lean more on his tailback, McLendon.

Style—Boosters love Amato because he makes them feel welcome and important.

More on N.C. State at foxsports.com/named/FS/CFB/teams

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

McLendon is the ACC's best running back when healthy, but nagging injuries plagued him in 2003.

Hall proved to be worth the wait last season, and it will be interesting to see how he performs as the Wolfpack's featured receiver in 2004.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Players love him because he is a great motivator who skillfully builds camaraderie. Amato is an underrated tactician, particularly on offense. After spending 18 years as a defensive coach at Florida State, Amato had the guts to start Rivers as a freshman and constructed the offense to take advantage of Rivers' remarkable passing skills. He also hired the ideal offensive coordinator before the 2003 season to handle Rivers as a senior and to manage the transition to a new quarterback.

Mazzone instills confidence in his quarterbacks by trusting them and backing them during difficult times. That supportive approach will be ideal this season because he must send a new quarterback into some difficult environments.

Herring wins over players with intensity and a great sense of humor. He developed some excellent linebackers at Clemson, including first-round draft pick Anthony Simmons of the Seahawks and 2000 Butkus Award finalist Keith Adams. His teaching and motivation should improve a linebacking unit that has decent talent.

OFFENSE

Quarterbacks—Replacing Rivers will be difficult, but there are candidates who have the potential to keep the team rolling. Jay Davis is a junior who knows the system well. Like Rivers, he played high school football for his father and has a solid background as a coach's son. He has played in 10 games in two seasons as Rivers' backup, but his expe-

An ACC coach says...

That attack last year was a Norm Chow (now at USC) offense to a T. Philip Rivers was tutored right out of the box by Norm Chow. The next guy who plays quarterback there will be running Norm Chow's offense, but he won't be coached by Norm Chow. That could make a difference, and I think it will. Losing Rivers will hurt them more than losing a quarterback will hurt Virginia and Maryland. … **T.A. McLendon** is extremely talented, and they are going to have to get him the ball more and make him a bigger part of their offense. But though he has good speed, he gets nicked up some. He needs to play every game. He did that two years ago, but he couldn't avoid injury in '03. … Center **Jed Paulsen** is a real good player. He's a nasty type. They have some solid players up front, but they didn't have to hold their blocks too long last year because Rivers could get rid of it so fast. That might have to change this year. … Their front seven was so young last year. Now, they have a good front, with **Mario Williams** and **DeMarcus Tyler**. Tyler was young last year, but he's so good that he makes you run somewhere else. Williams is a great speed rusher who can really get to the quarterback. … They want to bump-and-run you. Their man-free concept is similar to Florida State's. They'll use some zone, but **Chuck Amato** doesn't want to do that. He just wants speed everywhere, so he can attack.

rience has been limited to mop-up time. He completed nine passes in 10 attempts last season and threw for a touchdown.

Marcus Stone, a redshirt freshman, is more physically gifted than Davis. He is 6-4 and 226 pounds with a strong arm, and he bench pressed 300 pounds as a high school senior. Even the likely No. 3 quarterback, Chris Moore, has great size (6-5, 212) and is gifted enough to help the Wolfpack win if the other two fail.

Running backs—It's imperative for the Wolfpack to keep McLendon healthy. He missed four games last season and was at less than full strength for others because of a variety of nagging injuries. His production dropped off significantly; after rushing for 1,101 yards and 18 touchdowns as a freshman, he carried for 608 yards and nine touchdowns last season. When he's not hurting, McLendon is the ACC's best running back. He has an excellent blend of speed and power, and he has a knack for getting into the end zone. He also is a good pass catcher, which makes him even more valuable in the team's wide-open attack.

McLendon's backup, Josh Brown, has the speed to break loose for big plays when he gets into the secondary but isn't as tough a runner as McLendon. He missed seven games last season because of injuries but will be back at full strength in the fall. A former Gatorade North Carolina high school player of the year, Brown gives the Wolfpack solid depth, which is important considering McLendon's problems with injuries.

N.C. State doesn't use its fullback much, but senior Chance Moyer does a good job blocking when he gets the opportunity.

Receivers—Slotback Tramain Hall is a remarkable success story. He failed to qualify for his scholarship out of high school in 2001, graduated in a year from L.A. Valley Junior College, then was ruled ineligible again by the ACC for '02. When he got an opportunity to play last season, he showed why coaches had been so high on him when he came out of Deerfield Beach, Fla. He caught 69 passes for 799 yards and seven touchdowns and will be the featured receiver now that all-time school receptions leader Jerricho Cotchery is gone.

N.C. State will miss Cotchery, who didn't have the physical skills of a Torry Holt or Koren Robinson but rarely dropped a pass and got the most out of his ability. But the Wolfpack has Hall and Richard Washington ready to step into more prominent roles.

Washington missed two games because of suspension and another because of injury in '03 but still caught 44 passes for 500 yards and six touchdowns. Sophomore Brian Clark, who started as a sophomore in '03 and made 33 catches for 548 yards, also is back.

If Amato finds a quarterback who can deliver the ball, these guys will be ready. So will tight end T.J. Williams, who caught 28 passes last season and started as a sophomore.

Line—The offense averaged 6.6 yards per play, its highest total in history, and Rivers

NICKEL PACKAGE

Five things to look for

1 Pack stops Seminoles. Chuck Amato always outcoaches Florida State's Bobby Bowden. He doesn't always win, but this year's game is in Raleigh.

2 No doubting Thomas. Senior linebacker Pat Thomas made a lot of big plays last season. He will be a team leader and will benefit from the passionate coaching of Reggie Herring.

3 Hall gets the ball. Tramain Hall will line up as a wideout and a slotback and will carry the ball on handoffs, reverses and just about any other way the staff can get it to him.

4 Fridge in a nailbiter. Maryland coach Ralph Friedgen has three straight victories over the Wolfpack, all by four or fewer points. That streak will continue.

5 McLendon for 1,500. If he stays healthy, T.A. McLendon should rush for 1,000 yards and have 500 receiving yards as a focal point of the offense.

QUICK HITS

Stadium: Carter-Finley (grass, 51,500)
Site: Raleigh, N.C.
Tickets: 800-310-7225

COACHING STAFF

Head coach: Chuck Amato (34-17, 4 years)
Assistant head coach/wide receivers: John Holliday (5th year)
Offensive coordinator/tight ends: Noel Mazzone (2nd year)
Defensive coordinator: Reggie Herring (1st year)
Offensive line: Michael Barry (2nd year)
Quarterbacks/recruiting coordinator: Curt Cignetti (5th year)
Defensive backs: Chris Demarest (5th year)
Linebackers: Manny Diaz (4th year)
Defensive line/special teams: Joe Pate (3rd year, 8th overall)
Running backs: Dick Portee (14th year)
Strength and conditioning: Todd Stroud (5th year)
Defensive backs: Greg Williams (3rd year)

FORMATIONS AND FIGURES

Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Last league title won: 1979
Last time didn't go to a bowl: 1998
2003 TSN preseason rank: 23
2003 record: 8-5 (beat Kansas in Tangerine Bowl); ACC: 4-4/T4th
Website: www.gopack.com

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

RECRUITING

2004 CLASS

RATINGS BY RIVALS.COM

NAME	POS.	HT./WT.	HOMETOWN/SCHOOL
★★★★★ AMONG THE NATION'S TOP 30 PROSPECTS			
DeMario Pressley	DL	6-4/290	Greensboro, N.C./Dudley
★★★★ AMONG THE NATION'S TOP 200 PROSPECTS			
Darrell Blackman	RB	6-1/200	Williamsport, Pa./Hargrave Military Aca. (Va.)
Andre Brown	RB	6-1/210	Greenville, N.C./Rose
Willie Young	DL	6-5/215	Palm Beach Gardens, Fla./Palm Beach Gardens
★★★ AMONG THE NATION'S TOP 600 PROSPECTS			
Octavius Darby	TE	6-4/224	Hollywood, Fla./Chaminade-Madonna
John Dunlap	WR	6-3/225	Hollywood, Fla./Chaminade-Madonna
Merci Falaise	OL	6-6/315	Washington, Ga./Georgia Military Academy
LaMarte McGhee	DL	6-6/260	Roxboro, N.C./Person
Gerard Miller	DL	6-3/270	Craven, N.C./West Craven
DaJuan Morgan	WR	6-1/190	Riviera Beach, Fla./Suncoast
Brandon Setzer	DL	6-5/275	Thomasville, N.C./Hargrave Military Aca.(Va.)
★★ SOLID DIVISION I PROSPECT			
John Bedics	DL	6-6/245	Bethlehem, Pa./Bethlehem Catholic
Raymond Brooks	DL	6-4/240	Williamsport, Pa./Williamsport Area
Daniel Evans	QB	6-3/170	Raleigh/Broughton
Jeremy Gray	CB	6-3/185	Opelika, Ala./Opelika
Anthony Hill	TE	6-6/260	Houston/Hargrave Military Academy (Va.)
Tyler Lewis	K/P	6-2/230	Albemarle, N.C./Albemarle
Miguel Scott	CB	6-1/180	Miami/Killian

INSIDE DISH

Coach **Chuck Amato**, a master salesman, had limited scholarships, but he used them wisely in landing the nation's No. 28 class. ... The Wolfpack continued to work talent-laden Florida, signing five players from the Sunshine State. Amato also came away with two of the top in-state prospects in defensive tackle **DeMario Pressley** and running back **Andre Brown**. Pressley, a freakish athlete, was the nation's No. 1 prospect at his position and No. 11 player overall. Pressley, who also looked hard at North Carolina and Florida State, will compete for playing time this fall. Brown was one of the most physically gifted backs in the Class of 2004. The No. 10 prospect at his position, he averaged 12 yards per carry as a senior and rushed for a state 4A record 3,478 career yards. ... Hargrave Military Academy (Va.) standout **Darrell Blackman** is another talented runner. Brown is a bruiser, but Blackman is a breakaway threat. Brown and Blackman could team with **T.A. McLendon** to form one of the nation's top backfields this season. ... Wide receiver **DaJuan Morgan** originally committed to Ohio State, but the Buckeyes pulled his scholarship late in the process. Morgan missed his senior year after injuring his hip in an auto accident. ... Four-star defensive end **Willie Young** was a great catch. He has the frame and speed of a linebacker but projects as a dominant pass-rushing specialist once he gets bigger. ... **Octavius Darby** is considered one of the nation's top tight end prospects. —*Rivals.com*

was sacked just 17 times in 13 games, but Rivers, McLendon and the wide receivers received much of the credit. If the offense performs well without Rivers, the line finally should get the recognition it deserves.

Left guard Leroy Harris, who received first-team freshman All-American honors from the *Sporting News* last season, is the most talented player on a line that returns four starters. Seniors Jed Paulsen at center and Ricky Fowler at right guard will provide leadership and experience. Sophomore Derek Morris, who started five games at right tackle last season, also has a promising career ahead of him.

N.C. State hopes for the healthy return of Chris Colmer, who was granted a sixth year of eligibility by the NCAA after missing last season with Parsonage-Turner syndrome, a rare disease that caused pain and numbness in his arm. Colmer has 36 career starts; if he returns, the Wolfpack will have one of the nation's most experienced offensive lines.

There is solid depth with junior John McKeon (11 starts last season) and James Newby ready to play.

DEFENSE

Line—Mario Williams knew from the start last season he was going to play a major role as a freshman. He started every game, making five sacks and breaking up six passes. Now it's time for him to share his recipe for success with DeMario Pressley, a freshman who might play a major role at tackle. Pressley was the nation's top-rated defensive tackle according to Rivals.com and joins a unit loaded with talented underclassmen that has something to prove after opponents averaged 421 yards per game last season.

Like Williams, tackle John McCargo played a pivotal role as a freshman last season, ranking second on the team with 14 tackles for loss. He and Dwayne Herndon are huge, physical players on a line that must develop depth with such players as Maurice Charles, Kennie Covington, Martrel Brown, Renaldo Moses and James Martin, all of whom, with the exception of redshirt freshman Brown, played reserve roles last season. Manny Lawson is a great athlete who moved from linebacker to end and could become an excellent speed rusher as he adjusts.

Linebackers—Herring and a talented group of veterans will make a nice combination here. The team's linebackers last season made huge plays in two key victories down the stretch. Freddie Aughtry-Lindsay returned an interception 56 yards for the winning touchdown with five seconds remaining against Connecticut. Pat Thomas had a sack and tipped a pass that led to an interception late in the Wolfpack's victory over Clemson.

Thomas, a senior, was a second-team All-ACC performer last season and had 119 tackles and eight sacks. He pursues well and makes good reads from the weak side.

Jay Davis has thrown just 29 passes in a Wolfpack uniform, completing 18.

PAUL NISELY / TSN

WOLFPACK ROSTER

NO.	NAME	HT./WT.	CL.	EXP.	HOMETOWN/PREVIOUS SCHOOL
			QUARTERBACKS		
10	Jay Davis	6-2/205	Jr.	2L	Clearwater, Fla./Central Catholic
16	Chris Moore	6-5/212	So.	SQ	Auburndale, Fla./Auburndale
9	Marcus Stone	6-4/226	Fr.	RS	Harrisburg, Pa./Bishop McDevitt
13	Chris Young	5-11/190	Sr.	2L	Raleigh/Ravenscroft
			RUNNING BACKS		
26	Josh Brown	5-10/188	Jr.	2L	Shelby, N.C./Crest
20	Reggie Davis	6-2/220	So.	1L	Tallahassee, Fla./Godby
37	Avery Gibson (FB)	6-2/244	Sr.	3L	Birmingham, Ala./Hoover
44	T.A. McLendon	5-11/216	Jr.	2L	Albermarle, N.C./Albemarle
49	Chance Moyer (FB)	6-3/232	Sr.	2L	Tuscaloosa, Ala./Tuscaloosa
7	Fred Span	6-0/186	Jr.	SQ	Bradenton, Fla./Southeast
39	Eric Taylor (FB)	5-9/213	So.	SQ	Goldston, N.C./Chatham Central
			RECEIVERS/TIGHT ENDS		
13	Lamart Barrett	6-1/190	So.	1L	Miami Springs, Fla./Miami Springs
87	Brian Clark	6-3/202	Jr.	2L	Tampa/Chamberlain
21	Tramain Hall	5-11/187	Jr.	1L	Deerfield Bch, Fla./Los Angeles Valley
11	Chris Hawkins	6-3/188	So.	1L	Henderson, N.C./Southern Vance
5	Sterling Hicks	6-2/181	Jr.	2L	Pompano Beach, Fla./Ely
84	Jamesly Jean (TE)	6-5/220	Fr.	RS	Tampa/Jefferson
88	Roddy Long (TE)	6-6/230	So.	SQ	Hickory, N.C./Hickory
15	John Ritcher (TE)	6-3/246	Jr.	2L	Raleigh/Ravenscroft
6	Richard Washington	6-0/172	Jr.	1L	Ft. Myers, Fla./Ft. Myers
80	T.J. Williams (TE)	6-4/248	Jr.	2L	Tarboro, N.C./Hargrave
			OFFENSIVE LINEMEN		
70	Chris Colmer (T)	6-6/305	Sr.	3L	Port Jefferson, N.Y./Vandermeulen
54	Merci Falaise (T)	6-6/316	Jr.	TR	Washington, Ga./Georgia Military
76	Ricky Fowler (G)	6-2/303	Sr.	3L	Columbus, Ga./Kendrick
64	Leroy Harris (G)	6-3/293	So.	1L	Raleigh/Southeast
75	Kelani Heppe	6-4/280	Fr.	RS	Bealeton, Va./Liberty
73	Jon Holt (T)	6-6/281	So.	SQ	Clearwater, Fla./Clearwater
72	Luke Lathan (G)	6-5/288	Fr.	RS	Green Clove Springs, Fla./Clay
65	Shane Lucas (T)	6-4/308	Fr.	RS	Angier, N.C./Harnette Central
77	John McKeon (G)	6-5/298	Jr.	1L	Raleigh/Leesville
71	Derek Morris (T)	6-6/332	So.	1L	Huntersville, N.C./North Mecklenburg
78	James Newby (T)	6-6/278	So.	SQ	Athens, Ala./Athens
66	Yomi Ojo (G)	6-4/291	Fr.	RS	Raleigh/Southeast
53	Jed Paulsen (C)	6-2/290	Sr.	3L	Columbia, Mo./Hickman
			DEFENSIVE LINEMEN		
41	Martrel Brown (T)	6-3/265	Fr.	RS	Pembroke, N.C./Purnell Sweet
98	Maurice Charles (E)	6-3/254	So.	1L	Miami/Carol City
42	Chip Cross (E)	6-1/252	Jr.	2L	Conway, N.C./Northampton County East
99	Kennie Covington (T)	6-3/268	Sr.	SQ	Laurinburg, N.C./Jones County CC
62	Dwayne Herndon (T)	6-4/288	Jr.	2L	Middlesex, N.C./Southern Nash
91	Manny Lawson (E)	6-5/220	Jr.	2L	Goldsboro, N.C./Eastern Wayne
53	Dyron Liverman (E)	6-3/242	Sr.	SQ	Windsor, N.C./Bertie
50	James Martin (E)	6-2/236	So.	1L	Pompano Beach, Fla./Ely
90	John McCargo (T)	6-2/289	So.	1L	Drake's Branch, Va./Randolph Henry
97	Justin Mercer (E)	5-8/206	So.	SQ	Farmville, N.C./Farmville, N.C.
96	Renaldo Moses (E)	6-6/214	Jr.	2L	Rockingham, N.C./Richmond
72	DeMarcus Tyler (T)	6-3/289	So.	1L	Fayetteville, N.C./E.E. Smith
67	Antonio Walker (E)	6-2/256	So.	SQ	Nashville, N.C./North Nash
9	Mario Williams (E)	6-7/265	So.	1L	Richlands, N.C./Richlands
			LINEBACKERS		
31	Freddie Aughtry-Lindsay	6-1/230	Sr.	3L	High Point, N.C./T.W. Andrews
57	A.J. Booth	6-2/215	So.	SQ	Winston-Salem, N.C./Reynolds
35	Guerlin Dervil	6-3/232	Fr.	RS	Jacksonville/White
19	Garland Heath	6-2/207	So.	1L	Belle Glade, Fla./Glades Central
22	Oliver Hoyte	6-3/232	Jr.	2L	Tampa/Chamberlain
45	Ernest Jones	6-3/213	Fr.	RS	Henderson, N.C./Southern Vance
56	Patrick Lowery	6-2/224	So.	1L	Mocksville, N.C./Davie County
35	Jevon Moore	5-9/180	Sr.	SQ	Burlington, N.C./Burlington Williams
29	Larue Rumph	6-2/213	Fr.	RS	Clearwater, Fla./Central Catholic
52	Pat Thomas	6-2/230	Sr.	3L	Miami/Killian
34	Stephen Tulloch	5-10/226	So.	1L	Miami/Killian
			DEFENSIVE BACKS		
2	Padowithz Alce (CB)	5-11/175	So.	SQ	Raleigh/Enloe
3	A.J. Davis (CB)	5-10/172	So.	1L	Durham, N.C./Northern Durham
7	Easpoinisa Eatmon (CB)	5-10/186	So.	SQ	Goldsboro, N.C./Goldsboro
14	Dovonte Edwards (CB)	6-0/182	Sr.	3L	Chapel Hill, N.C./Chapel Hill
31	Alex Fantroy (CB)	5-8 /176	So.	SQ	Greensboro, N.C./West Guilford
27	Troy Graham (S)	6-3/202	Sr.	3L	Miami/Miami Central
24	Phillip Holloman (CB)	5-11/182	Fr.	RS	Norfolk, Va./Lake Taylor
1	Marcus Hudson (S)	6-2/186	Jr.	2L	Homestead, Fla./South Dade
4	J.J. Jones (S)	5-11/185	Jr.	2L	Laurinburg, N.C./Scotland County
36	Andre Maddox	6-1/200	Sr.	3L	Miami/Killian
28	Lamont Reid (CB)	6-0/188	Sr.	3L	Concord, N.C./Central Cabarrus
4	Jimmie Sutton (CB)	6-1/178	Fr.	RS	Boca Raton, Fla./Boca Raton
			SPECIALISTS		
12	John Deraney (K)	6-4/208	So.	1L	Fayettesville, Ga./Fayette County
35	Tucker King (K)	6-1/191	Sr.	SQ	Greensboro, N.C./Greensboro Page
85	William Lee (LS)	6-2/198	Jr.	SQ	Fuquay-Varina, N.C./Fuquay-Varina

Aughtry-Lindsay plays the strong side and also has played the middle and is tough against the run. Junior Oliver Hoyte is a returning starter and made 79 tackles last season.

Secondary—The regression of the defensive backs was the great mystery of a defense that collapsed after a successful '02 season. Receivers weren't covered, tackles were missed and opponents passed for 284.1 yards per game and 28 touchdowns. An inexperienced line was part of the problem, but the secondary clearly struggled and lost confidence.

Now the players who struggled last year have an opportunity to redeem themselves. All four starters are seniors. Andre Maddox was a first-team All-ACC selection last season at rover and made a team-leading 129 tackles as the lone bright spot of the unit.

Free safety Troy Graham, a converted wide receiver, demonstrated his toughness last season when he broke his foot in the first half against Texas Tech but kept playing. After missing just one game, he returned to play against Georgia Tech. Marcus Hudson, a starting cornerback in '02, also will play free safety after sitting out '03 to concentrate on academics. Cornerbacks Lamont Reid and Dovonte Edwards gave up too many big plays last season; they could work in a three-man rotation with sophomore A.J. Davis.

SPECIAL TEAMS

This will be an area of uncertainty because kicker Adam Kiker and punter Austin Herbert both were seniors in '03. John Deraney, a strong-legged player who handled kickoffs last season, also punted and worked as kicker in the spring. Tyler Lewis, who averaged 44.2 yards per punt as a high school senior in '03, likely will relieve Deraney at punter or kicker. The team also needs a long snapper to replace Danny Young, a four-year starter.

Other areas of the special teams should be solid. N.C. State leads the nation with 31 blocked kicks since 2000 and will block more with the athletic Manny Lawson leading the way. Hall scored two touchdowns on punt returns last season, and Reid averaged 19.8 yards on kickoff returns.

BOTTOM LINE

N.C. State is good enough to begin the post-Rivers era with a trip to a bowl game. The Wolfpack returns solid talent at wide receiver, on the offensive line and in the backfield. The play of the new quarterback and development of the defense will determine how far the Wolfpack goes. But N.C. State never seriously challenged for an ACC title even when Rivers was the quarterback and is unlikely to do so this season. **TSN**

Ken Tysiac covers the ACC for the Charlotte Observer.

Hoyte, who finished with 8.5 tackles for loss in 2003, is one of three returning starters at linebacker.

PAUL NISELY / TSN

2003 RESULTS

Western Carolina	W, 59-20
at Wake Forest	L, 38-24
at Ohio State	L, 44-38 (3OT)
Texas Tech	W, 49-21
North Carolina	W, 47-34
at Georgia Tech	L, 29-21
Connecticut	W, 31-24
Clemson	W, 17-15
at Duke	W, 28-21
Virginia	W, 51-37
at Florida State	L, 50-44 (2OT)
Maryland	L, 26-24
*Kansas	W, 56-26

*Tangerine Bowl

STATISTICAL LEADERS

Rushing	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
T.A. McLendon	**130**	**608**	**4.7**	**9**
Josh Brown	**50**	**186**	**3.7**	**4**
Tramain Hall	**36**	**142**	**3.9**	**0**

Passing	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Int.
Philip Rivers	483	348	72.0	4,491	34	7
Jay Davis	**10**	**9**	**90.0**	**89**	**0**	**1**

Receiving	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Jerricho Cotchery	86	1,369	15.9	10
Tramain Hall	**69**	**799**	**11.6**	**7**
Richard Washington	**44**	**500**	**11.4**	**6**
T.A. McLendon	**40**	**368**	**9.2**	**2**
Brian Clark	**33**	**548**	**16.6**	**2**
T.J. Williams	**28**	**444**	**15.9**	**3**

Kicking	XPM	XPA	FGM	FGA	Pts.
Adam Kiker	56	59	12	17	92
John Deraney	**5**	**5**	**—**	**—**	**5**

Tackles	Solo	Assists	Total	TFL/Yds.
Andre Maddox	**92**	**37**	**129**	**9.5/-27**
Pat Thomas	**59**	**60**	**119**	**12.5/-74**
F. Aughtry-Lindsay	**49**	**46**	**95**	**7.5/-18**
Troy Graham	**54**	**27**	**81**	**—**
Oliver Hoyte	**37**	**42**	**79**	**8.5/-24**

SACKS: Thomas (8.0)
INTERCEPTIONS: Greg Golden, Victor Stephens, **A.J. Davis** (2)

Returning players in bold

Team	Avg.	Rank
Rushing offense:	100.8	9th ACC/107th nation
Rushing defense:	136.9	5th/40th
Passing offense:	352.3	1st/3rd
Passing defense:	284.1	9th/116th
Total offense:	453.2	1st/13th
Total defense:	421.0	7th/89th
Turnover margin:	.08	7th/57th

KEY LOSSES

Offense

WR Jerricho Cotchery (86 rec., 1,369 yards, 10 TDs); K Adam Kiker (12-of-17 FGs, 92 pts.); OL Sean Locklear; QB Philip Rivers (348-for-483, 4,491 yards, 34 TDs, 7 int.).

Defense

CB Greg Golden (39 tackles, 2 int.); T Alan Halloway (22 tackles); P Austin Herbert (53 punts for 2,265 yards, 42.7 avg.).

THREE ON THE RISE

P/K John Deraney. He booted 40 of his 75 kickoffs for touchbacks last season. Now there is a chance he will punt and kick unless freshman Tyler Lewis can make an immediate impact at one of the positions. Deraney's performance will be pivotal as the Wolfpack replaces kicker Adam Kiker and punter Austin Herbert.

DE Manny Lawson. A junior, Lawson is tall and fast and has demonstrated his superb athletic ability by blocking four punts in his career. He was stuck on the depth chart behind veterans at linebacker but might have a chance to step up after moving to defensive end.

OL James Newby. Newby caught passes from Philip Rivers as a high school tight end in Athens, Ala., and is improving rapidly as a sophomore. He is athletic, strong and tough and could start at left tackle if sixth-year senior Chris Colmer doesn't recover from Parsonage-Turner syndrome and play. Even if Colmer returns, coach Chuck Amato says Newby might be a starter somewhere else on the offensive line.

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

	Offense		Defense
WR	Richard Washington Sterling Hicks	**LE**	Mario Williams* Maurice Charles
LT	Chris Colmer James Newby	**T**	John McCargo* Martrel Brown
LG	Leroy Harris* Luke Lathan	**T**	Dwayne Herndon Kennie Covington
C	Jed Paulsen* Kelani Heppe	**RE**	Manny Lawson Renaldo Moses
RG	Ricky Fowler* John McKeon*	**SLB**	Freddie Aughtry-Lindsay* Ernest Jones
RT	Derek Morris* Jon Holt	**MLB**	Oliver Hoyte* Pat Lowery
TE	T.J. Williams* John Ritcher	**WLB**	Pat Thomas* Stephen Tulloch
WR	Brian Clark* Lamart Barrett	**LCB**	Lamont Reid* A.J. Davis
QB	Jay Davis Marcus Stone	**SS**	Andre Maddox* Garland Heath
RB	T.A. McLendon* Josh Brown	**FS**	Troy Graham* Marcus Hudson
SB	Tramain Hall Chris Hawkins	**RCB**	Dovonte Edwards Jimmie Sutton
K	John Deraney	**P**	John Deraney
KR	Lamont Reid	**PR**	Tramain Hall

* Returning starter

GEORGIA TECH YELLOW JACKETS

Projected finish: 6-5 4-4/8th in conference

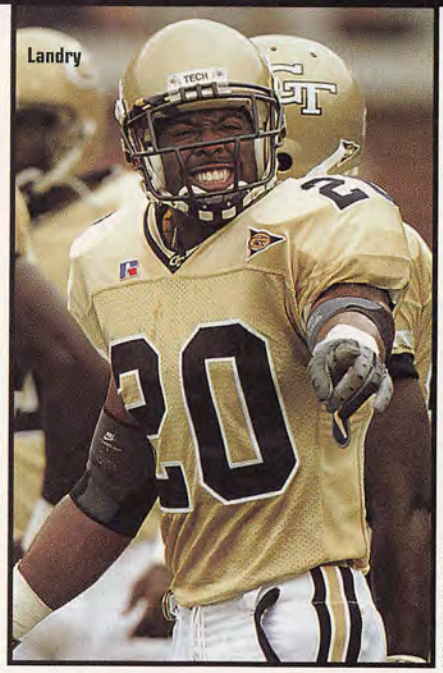
By Doug Doughty

There was so much disenchantment with the Georgia Tech football program early last season that athletic director Dave Braine felt compelled to stress patience in an e-mail he sent to supporters. A 17-3 victory over then-No. 17 Auburn prevented the 0-4 start some had predicted, and a subsequent four-game winning streak included home victories over two of the ACC's rising powers, Maryland and N.C. State.

While some of the good will wore off when Duke ended its ACC-record 30-game conference losing streak with a 41-17 win over Georgia Tech, the up-and-down Yellow Jackets went on to claim a postseason berth and finished strongly with a 52-10 rout of Tulsa in the Humanitarian Bowl.

It marked the seventh straight bowl trip for Tech and lifted the Yellow Jackets' NCAA-best bowl winning percentage (20 or more appearances) to .656. But such lofty bowl success cannot erase concerns over back-to-back 7-6 records.

Coach Chan Gailey enters his third season with 15 returning starters and a firm belief the Yellow Jackets will be better. At the very least, he enters the 2004 schedule with a proven quarterback, ACC Rookie of the Year Reggie Ball, and the conference rushing champion, P.J. Daniels. "I'm excited about where we can be," Gailey says. "Our biggest concern is depth at a lot of positions."


Landry

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	TSN pick
Sept. 4	Samford	W
Sept. 11	at Clemson	L
Sept. 18	at North Carolina	W
Oct. 2	Miami	L
Oct. 9	at Maryland	L
Oct. 16	Duke	W
Oct. 28	Virginia Tech	W
Nov. 6	at N.C. State	L
Nov. 13	Connecticut	W
Nov. 20	Virginia	W
Nov. 27	at Georgia	L

Strength of schedule rank
Conference: 6
Nation: 30

GAME OF THE YEAR

Georgia Tech is looking for its seventh straight win over the Tar Heels and fourth in a row at Chapel Hill—a nice streak given the relative parity between the programs. Carolina was last in the ACC in 2003 and won't be projected much higher. This game, the second in a four-game stretch that also includes Clemson, Miami and Maryland, is key because the Jackets can't afford an early four-game losing streak.

Last season, Georgia Tech opened with a brutal four-game stretch. This season, that stretch starts on Week 2, with three of four conference games on the road. Tech likely will be favored to win only the one at North Carolina, meaning a 2-3 or 1-4 start is a good possibility. Later road trips to North Carolina State and Georgia just add to the enormity of coach Chan Gailey's task. Although a visit from Connecticut might provide a late-season respite, the Yellow Jackets don't need to get caught napping against the Huskies, who were 51-17 winners at Wake Forest last November.

COACHING

Strategies—When he took the Georgia Tech job before the 2002 season, Gailey said he would give up the play-calling duties he had handled as head coach of the Dallas Cowboys and offensive coordinator for the Denver Broncos, Pittsburgh Steelers and Miami Dolphins. That didn't last long. After one season, former offensive coordinator Bill O'Brien departed and Gailey conceded the Yellow Jackets would be best served if he did, indeed, call the plays.

Although the adjective "pro-style" often is used to describe a dropback passing attack, Gailey has made a strong commitment to the run. He capitalized last season on Ball's ability to roll out. Gailey worked up his 2003 game plans with the help of passing game coordinator Buddy Geis, a former Cowboys colleague, and running game coordinator Patrick Nix. This year, Nix will be offensive coordinator and Geis assistant head coach.

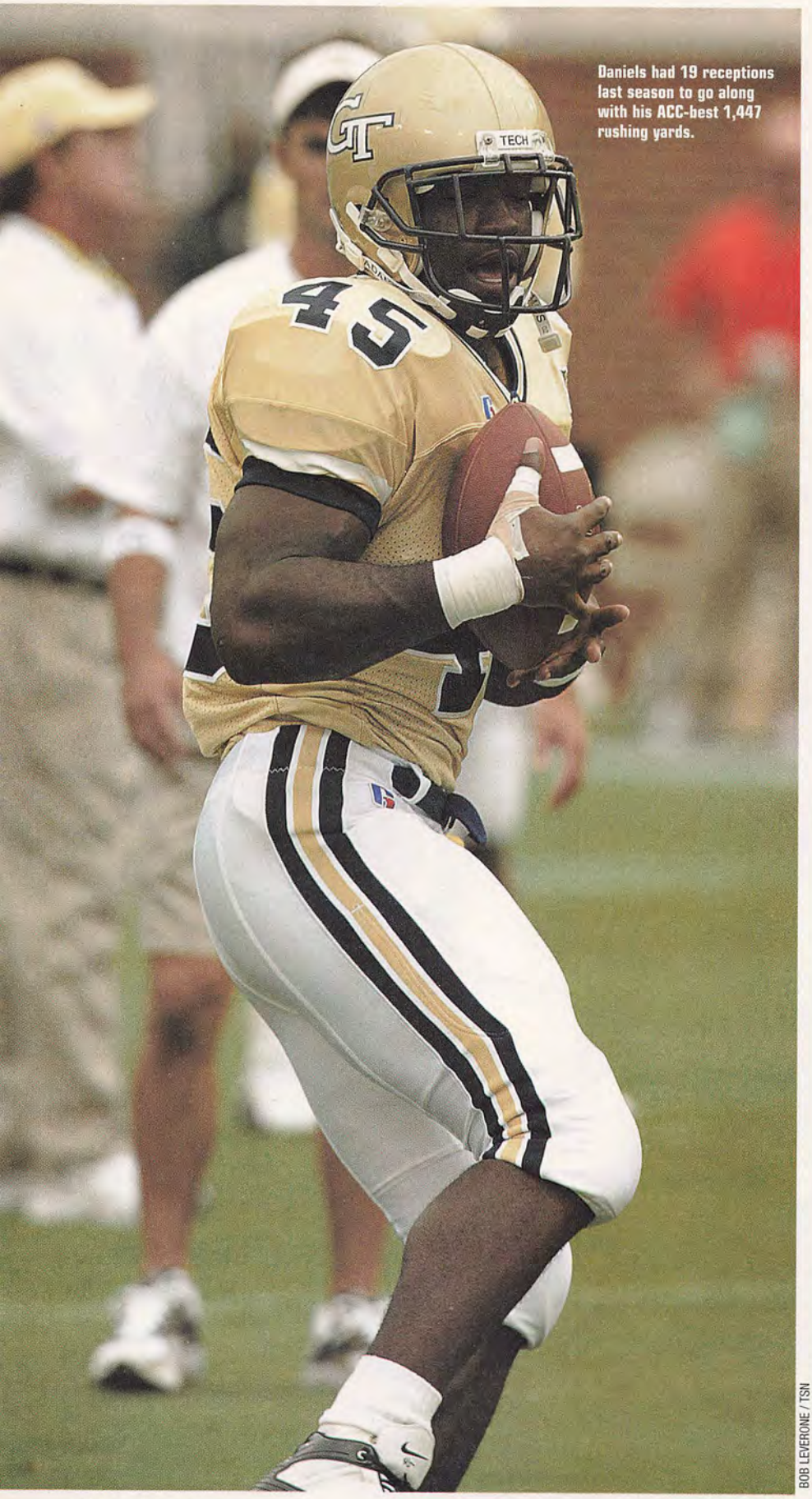
Gailey leaves much of the defensive strategy to third-year coordinator Jon Tenuta, whose previous stops include Ohio State and North Carolina. Tenuta's attacking 4-3 scheme helped the Yellow Jackets finish 20th nationally in total defense and 12th in rushing defense.

Style—Gailey takes a "chairman of the board" approach without the volatility of predecessor George O'Leary. When academic problems surfaced in the spring of 2003 and cost Tech the services of running back Tony Hollings, some questioned whether Gailey had monitored the situation closely enough. The coach was not blindsided by the controversy. When accepting the job, Gailey had

More on Georgia Tech at foxsports.com/named/FS/CFB/teams

Ball started every game en route to winning ACC Rookie of the Year honors.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN



Daniels had 19 receptions last season to go along with his ACC-best 1,447 rushing yards.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

noted the big difference in responsibility between coaching at the college level and the NFL, where there are few limits on meetings and practices.

Gailey's understated approach makes him more likely to be judged on wins and losses than personality, which is exactly the way he wants it.

OFFENSE

Quarterbacks—The Yellow Jackets entered the 2003 season set at quarterback with senior A.J. Suggs, who had started every game the year before, passing for 2,242 yards and 12 touchdowns while leading the Jackets to a bowl game. But Gailey, remarkably, went with Ball, who became the first quarterback in school history to start the opening game as a true freshman. He later became the first Tech player to be named the league's top rookie since tailback Jimy Lincoln in 1991.

At 5-11 and 195 pounds, Ball is not the prototypical dropback passer. He threw for 1,996 yards and 10 touchdowns, but he also provided a legitimate running threat (384 net yards) who kept defenses from focusing on other players. Ball is smart, clever and durable, and his effectiveness should only increase as his decision-making improves.

A bigger issue facing Gailey is the identity of Ball's backup. He probably will choose between redshirt freshman Patrick Carter, the younger brother of New York Giants and former Auburn wide receiver Tim Carter, and true freshman Taylor Bennett, who grad-

An ACC coach says...

Reggie Ball scared us to death last year. He didn't do a lot against everybody he played, but he caused a lot of people headaches. He's so slithery and competitive. They did a lot of different stuff with him in that complex offense. He's very good in the sprint outs and the boots. They move the pocket around for him and let him sneak and run the dart series. He's not a pocket quarterback because he's short, but he can really run. He has good escape skills, but he can also throw the football. I'm not ready to give him Doug Flutie status, but he's getting up there. … Ball benefits from **Chan Gailey**'s offense. One of the things he has to do a little better is learn how to bring a team back from a deficit late in a game, like against Florida State (14-13 loss). But he's a competitor. … Defensively, they do as good a job as anybody in the conference, scheme-wise. They have a complex system, with multiple looks that are ever-changing. Their blitz package is off the charts. How they can teach those kids so many different blitzes is amazing. … They are going to miss those two linebackers (Keyaron Fox and Daryl Smith). They really made things work for them. Their safeties, **Dawan Landry** and **James Butler**, are great. They make things really tough on you. … They have to play at a high level every week. Last year, they played well (in a 7-3 win) against Maryland and then lost (41-17) the next week to Duke. That can't happen.

uated from high school in time to participate in spring practice. Carter and Bennett got 60 percent of the snaps in spring practice.

Running backs—When Hollings became academically ineligible and left school in the spring of 2003, little did the Yellow Jackets suspect they had the ACC rushing champion in the wings. Daniels, a former walk-on who was awarded a scholarship after the 2002 season, outgained Wake Forest runner-up Chris Barclay by 255 yards.

The rushing title was in question, however, until Daniels rushed for an NCAA bowl game-record 307 yards against Tulsa. He earlier had rushed for 240 yards against North Carolina's porous run defense. But the All-ACC tailback needs to be more consistent. He reached the 100-yard plateau in only six of 13 games and nearly half of his yards (722 of 1,447) came against Tulsa, North Carolina and Wake Forest.

Mike Sampson, who was ahead of Daniels on the 2002 spring depth chart, will provide backup help after missing last season for academic reasons. Another backup is Chris Woods, who transferred to Tech when Morris Brown dropped its football program.

Ajenavi Eziemefe, previously a tailback, concentrated on winning the fullback job in the spring after splitting time between the positions last year. He will have to beat out returning starter Jimmy Dixon, who carried the ball only twice last season and has two rushing attempts and six receptions in 25 games over two seasons.

Receivers—This became a position of need with the loss of Jonathan Smith, who caught 78 passes for 1,138 yards and five touchdowns last season. The departure of Smith, who doubled as a dangerous punt returner, leaves Georgia Tech with only one returning receiver who had more than 10 receptions.

Nate Curry, coming off a knee injury that cost him the 2001 season and limited him to one catch in 2002, showed signs of a return to form. He caught seven passes against N.C. State and six against Clemson, finishing with 37. Levon Thomas was more productive as a sophomore, when he had 20 receptions, than he was last year with 10. Senior Mark Logan, one of several former quarterbacks who have moved to other positions, is a former South Carolina player of the year who has 10 career receptions.

The big-play answer might be a freshman. Calvin Johnson, who is widely considered to be the Yellow Jackets' top recruit, is a rangy, 6-4 playmaker who could step right into the rotation if he plays well in the fall.

Just when he became an integral part of the passing game, tight end John Paul Foschi had to leave. Darius Williams is the early choice to replace him. But the 6-6, 270-pounder might be best-suited to blocking.

Line—Nat Dorsey, a former first- and second-team All-ACC tackle, declared early for the NFL draft and distinguished himself in predraft workouts. That surprise defection and the loss of all-conference center Hugh Reilly leaves two big holes to fill.

Either 6-7, 280-pound Salih Besirevic or Kenton Johnson, a 6-6, 320-pound former transfer from Morris Brown, figures to take over at right tackle. Johnson rotated as the third tackle behind Dorsey and Kyle Wallace

NICKEL PACKAGE

Five things to look for

1. The passing game won't be effective if Tech can't replace Jonathan Smith's production. Even if freshman Calvin Johnson lives up to billing, Tech needs three dependable wideouts.
2. Tech must run the ball better against good defenses. Last year, P.J. Daniels gained 30 yards against Georgia, 34 against Clemson and 40 against Auburn.
3. Is there a 100-tackle linebacker on the roster? Probably. But Keyaron Fox and Daryl Smith were four-year tackle machines. The Yellow Jackets are especially vulnerable in this area.
4. If David Jordan or Travis Bell can't hit clutch field goals, recruit Kyle Belcher will get an opportunity.
5. Overrated early in his career and underrated in the last of his three seasons, offensive tackle Nat Dorsey was an iceberg to negotiate. Hugh Reilly will be just as difficult to replace.

QUICK HITS

Stadium: Bobby Dodd (grass, 55,000)
Site: Atlanta
Tickets: 888-832-4849

COACHING STAFF

Head coach: Chan Gailey (14-12, 2 years)
Assistant head coach/wide receivers: Buddy Geis (2nd year)
Offensive coordinator/quarterbacks: Patrick Nix (1st year, 3rd overall)
Defensive coordinator: Jon Tenuta (3rd year)
Offensive line: Joe D'Alessandris (3rd year)
Linebackers: Brian Jean-Mary (1st year)
Running backs: Curtis Modkins (2nd year, 3rd overall)
Tight ends: Tommie Robinson (2nd year, 3rd overall)
Defensive line: Giff Smith (1st year)
Special teams/recruiting coordinator: David Wilson (2nd year)

FORMATIONS AND FIGURES

Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: Multiple
Last league title won: 1998 (tie)
Last time didn't go to a bowl: 1996
2003 TSN preseason rank: 59
2003 record: 7-6 (beat Tulsa in Humanitarian Bowl); ACC: 4-4/T4th
Website: www.ramblinwreck.com

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RECRUITING

2004 CLASS

RATINGS BY RIVALS.COM

NAME	POS.	HT./WT.	HOMETOWN/SCHOOL
★★★★★ AMONG THE NATION'S TOP 30 PROSPECTS			
None			
★★★★ AMONG THE NATION'S TOP 200 PROSPECTS			
Calvin Johnson	WR	6-4/215	Tyrone, Ga./Sandy Creek
★★★ AMONG THE NATION'S TOP 600 PROSPECTS			
Taylor Bennett	QB	6-3/200	St. Louis/Lafayette
David Brown	DL	6-3/255	Madison, Ala./Bob Jones
Darryl Richard	DL	6-4/285	Destrehan, La./Destrehan
Darrell Robertson	DL	6-5/205	Jonesboro, Ga./Jonesboro
★★ SOLID DIVISION I PROSPECT			
Elris Anyaibe	DL	6-3/275	DeSoto, Texas/DeSoto
Kyle Belcher	K/P	6-4/200	Albany, Ga./Deerfield-Windsor
Travis Chambers	LB	6-0/215	Decatur, Ga./Chamblee
Pat Clark	WR	5-10/175	Jacksonville/Mandarin
Mike Cox	RB	6-2/248	Lewisberry, Pa./Red Land
Kieran Delaney	OL	6-5/310	Bristol, R.I./Avon Old Farms School (Conn.)
Andrew Gardner	OL	6-6/250	Tyrone, Ga./Sandy Creek
Drew Gause	RB	5-8/205	Spring, Texas/Spring
Justin Guadagni	FB	6-1/228	Glassport, Pa./South Allegheny
Gary Guyton	LB	6-2/220	Hinesville, Ga./Bradwell Institute
James Johnson	WR	6-0/180	Oakland, Fla./West Orange
Djay Jones	DB	6-1/185	St. Mary's, Ga./Camden County
Jamal Lewis	DB	6-0/170	Jonesboro, Ga./Jonesboro
Jacob Lonowski	OL	6-5/290	Elkhorn, Neb./Elkhorn
Kyle Manley	QB	6-2/185	Buford, Ga./Buford
Nate McManus	OL	6-4/290	Birmingham, Ala./Mountain Brook
Jon Morrison	TE	6-5/235	Marietta, Ga./Marietta
A.J. Smith	DE	6-6/225	Tampa/Jesuit
Eric Williams	DB/LB	6-3/200	Metter, Ga./Metter

INSIDE DISH

The Yellow Jackets have been pushed around lately by rival Georgia, so it was a happy day for the Rambling Wreck when Tyrone, Ga., wide receiver **Calvin Johnson** signed with Georgia Tech after being the subject of an intense in-state recruiting fight. The sleek Johnson was rated as the nation's No. 6 receiver. Johnson caught 40 passes for 736 yards and eight touchdowns last year. Johnson's teammate, offensive lineman **Andrew Gardner**, also signed with the Jackets. … Eight of Tech's 11 in-state recruits were named to the Super Southern 100 or the top 50 in Georgia by the Atlanta *Journal-Constitution*. … All 24 recruits are qualified academically. … Receiver, defensive line and offensive line were the areas of emphasis. The addition of Johnson took care of concerns at wideout. … **David Brown** of Madison, Ala., comes in after being ranked as the nation's No. 6 defensive end. He rejected offers from Alabama, Notre Dame, Georgia and Vanderbilt. Defensive tackle **Darryl Richard** of Destrehan, La., also is one to watch. He had offers from big-time programs across the nation. Defensive end **Darrell Robertson** of Jonesboro, Ga., rounds out a solid crop of defensive linemen. … Offensive linemen **Kieran Delaney**, **Nate McManus**, **Jacob Lonowski** and Gardner have potential to develop into contributors. The coaches believe Delaney can play early, and McManus was one of Alabama's top prospects. *—Rivals.com*

last season, earning good reviews. Wallace, the most experienced returning lineman with 25 career starts, moves from the right side to fill Dorsey's left tackle spot after adding some beef to his 6-6, 295-pound body.

The Yellow Jackets entered the spring with the intention of shifting guard Andy Tidwell-Neal to center, where Reilly excelled. Tidwell-Neal started every game last season. If he can't make the switch, look for redshirt freshman Kevin Tuminello at center with Tidwell-Neal starting at left guard.

Brad Honeycutt will start at one of the guard spots with senior Leon Robinson either backing up both positions or starting on the left side if Tidwell-Neal plays center. Robinson, Honeycutt and Tidwell-Neal were part of a three-man rotation that handled most snaps at the guard positions last season.

Depth is a concern. Help must come from a group that includes guards Matt Rhodes and Brad Brezina and tackle Eddy Parker.

DEFENSE

Line—Eric Henderson might be the most disruptive force in the ACC. The 6-3 junior end has two-year totals of 39 tackles for loss and 16 sacks, a playmaking penchant that has to be noted in any opposing game plan. A league-leading 11 of those sacks came in his all-conference 2003 season, as did a whopping 24 of his tackles behind the line. He's a big play waiting to happen.

Travis Parker will provide similar havoc from the other end position. Parker made 15 tackles for loss last year while playing out of position as a tackle. With the move of Gerris Wilkinson to linebacker, Parker returns to end with the hope of generating even more pressure on quarterbacks.

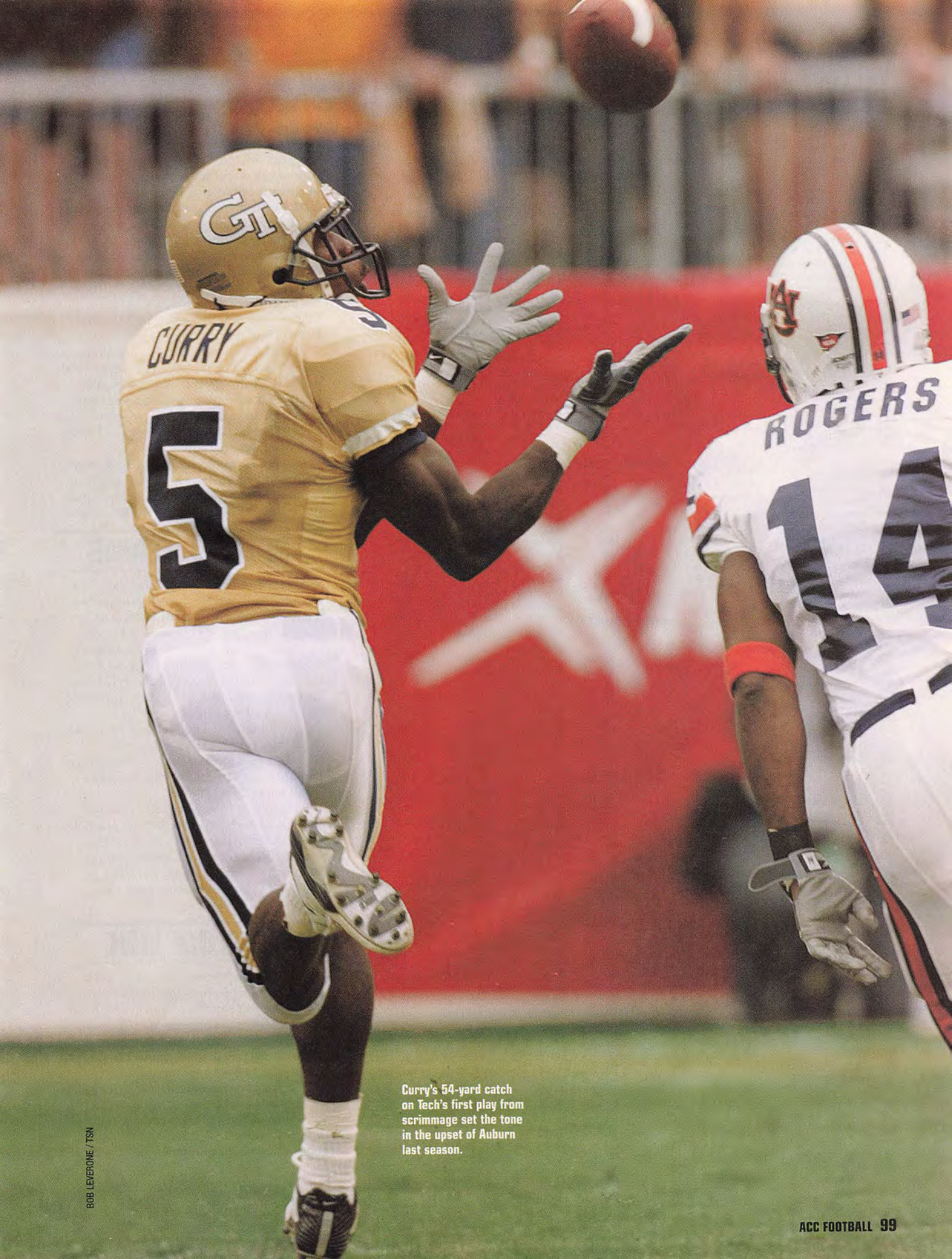
A knee injury that kept LeShawn Newberry out of spring practice provided an opportunity for undersized Joe Anoai (6-3, 255) to win a spot in the tackle rotation. The winner of that battle will line up opposite massive Mansfield Wrotto, a 310-pound surprise who earned ACC freshman honors last season. Tech coaches believe recruits David Brown, Darryl Richard and Darrell Robertson comprise the best defensive lineman class the school has signed.

Linebackers—This unit will be the biggest defensive question with the loss of starters Keyaron Fox, Daryl Smith and Ather Brown. Fox and Smith combined for 284 tackles last season, including 35 for loss, and Fox led all conference defenders with 155 stops.

Wilkinson appears to have one starting slot locked up. He returned to linebacker in the spring after playing out of position at end last season. No matter where he plays, Wilkinson is a quick, strong and athletic performer who quickly attracts attention from opposing coaches.

The rest of the linebacking unit is a work in progress. Gailey could select from a group that includes converted safety Chris Reis, Nick Moore, KaMichael Hall, Alex Johnson and Tabugbo Anyansi. Or he could turn to a recruit, perhaps Travis Chambers or Gary Guyton.

Chambers is a disruptive type who made



Curry's 54-yard catch on Tech's first play from scrimmage set the tone in the upset of Auburn last season.

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YELLOW JACKETS ROSTER

NO.	NAME	HT./WT.	CL.	EXP.	HOMETOWN/PREVIOUS SCHOOL
			QUARTERBACKS		
1	Reggie Ball	5-11/195	So.	1L	Stone Mountain, Ga./Stephenson
9	Robby Brown	6-1/180	Sr.	SQ	Blairsville, Ga./Union County
4	Patrick Carter	6-3/190	Fr.	RS	St. Petersburg, Fla./Lakewood
			RUNNING BACKS		
45	P.J. Daniels	5-10/210	Jr.	2L	Houston/Elsik
47	Jimmy Dixon (FB)	6-1/225	Sr.	3L	Arlington, Texas/Martin
28	Ajenavi Eziemefe (FB)	6-1/225	Jr.	2L	New Orleans/Edna Karr
3	Rashaun Grant	5-10/192	Fr.	RS	Tampa/Jefferson
32	Johnathan Jackson (FB)	6-2/225	Sr.	3L	Jacksonville/Bolles
38	Jay Reid (FB)	6-1/260	Jr.	SQ	Carnesville, Ga./Franklin County
38	Michael Sampson	6-1/199	So.	1L	Lewisville, Texas/Lewisville
24	Chris Woods	5-10/190	Jr.	1L	College Park, Ga./Mays
			RECEIVERS/TIGHT ENDS		
8	Damarius Bilbo	6-3/225	Jr.	2L	Moss Point, Miss./Moss Point
80	George Cooper (TE)	6-5/259	So.	SQ	Westerville, Ohio/Westerville North
5	Nate Curry	5-10/190	Sr.	3L	Miami/Monsignor Pace
88	Chris Dunlap	5-11/200	So.	1L	Miramar, Fla./Miramar
36	Eddie Ivery	5-10/165	Fr.	RS	Tampa/Chamberlain
12	Mark Logan	5-11/200	Sr.	3L	Greenwood, S.C./Greenwood
48	Michael Matthews (TE)	6-4/270	So.	SQ	Cincinnati/Sycamore
81	Xavier McGuire	6-3/205	So.	1L	Dallas/Carter
31	Robbie Rollins	6-2/192	Jr.	SQ	Lyons, Ga./Robert Toombs Christian Academy
84	Gavin Tarquinio (TE)	6-3/250	Jr.	1L	Marietta, Ga./Wheeler
7	Levon Thomas	6-0/195	Sr.	3L	College Park, Ga./Banneker
83	Darius Williams (TE)	6-6/270	Sr.	1L	Clarkston, Ga./Avondale
			OFFENSIVE LINEMEN		
76	Salih Besirevic (T)	6-7/280	Jr.	1L	Denver/South
50	Brad Brezina (G)	6-2/275	So.	1L	Greensboro, Ga./Athens Academy
72	Brad Honeycutt (G)	6-4/308	Jr.	2L	Mesquite, Texas/Mesquite
71	Kenton Johnson (T)	6-6/320	Sr.	1L	Hollywood, Fla./South Broward
87	Travis Kelly (C)	6-0/264	So.	SQ	Warner Robins, Ga./Warner Robins
79	Eddy Parker (T)	6-4/275	Fr.	RS	Burnet, Texas/Burnet
61	Matt Rhodes (G)	6-3/268	Fr.	RS	Angleton, Texas/Angleton
74	Leon Robinson (G)	6-4/318	Sr.	3L	Garden City, Ga/Groves
65	Andy Tidwell-Neal (C/G)	6-4/315	Sr.	3L	Plymouth, Minn./Wayzata
60	Kevin Tuminello (C)	6-4/275	Fr.	RS	Youngstown, Ohio/Boardman
77	Kyle Wallace (T)	6-6/295	Sr.	3L	Lawrenceville, Ga./Collins Hill
			DEFENSIVE LINEMEN		
96	Joe Anoai (T)	6-3/255	So.	1L	Pensacola, Fla./Escambia
99	Omar Billy (T)	6-2/270	Jr.	2L	Orlando/Colonial
63	Marcus Harris (T)	6-1/255	Fr.	RS	Decatur, Ga./Lakeside
56	Eric Henderson (E)	6-3/265	Jr.	2L	New Orleans/Edna Karr
98	LeShawn Newberry (T)	6-0/315	Fr.	RS	Port Orange, Fla./Spruce Creek
42	Adamm Oliver (E)	6-4/250	Fr.	RS	New Port Richey, Fla./Ridgewood
94	Travis Parker (E)	6-5/265	Jr.	2L	Hacienda Heights, Calif./Los Altos
92	Travis Rogers (E)	6-2/230	Fr.	RS	Wellington, Fla./Wellington
73	Josh Tittle (T)	6-2/245	Fr.	RS	Stone Mountain, Ga./Stephenson
91	Chirod Williams (E)	6-4/235	Sr.	2L	Jacksonville/Trinity Christian
97	Mansfield Wrotto (T)	6-3/310	So.	1L	Snellville, Ga./Brookwood
			LINEBACKERS		
57	Tabugbo Anyansi	6-1/225	Sr.	3L	Austell, Ga./Pebblebrook
35	KaMichael Hall	6-0/225	So.	1L	Houston/Klein Forest
66	Alex Johnson	5-11/235	Fr.	RS	Owensboro, Ky./Daviess County
90	Nick Moore	6-1/225	So.	1L	Arlington, Texas/Arlington
39	Kyle Pupello	6-0/220	Fr.	RS	Tampa/Plant
18	Chris Reis	6-0/210	Jr.	2L	Roswell, Ga./Roswell
93	Arthur Rozier	6-3/215	Fr.	RS	Lithonia, Ga./Lakeside
58	David Sanborn	6-1/215	Fr.	RS	North Augusta, S.C./North Augusta
41	Philip Wheeler	6-2/215	So.	1L	Columbus, Ga./Shaw
49	Gerris Wilkinson	6-3/230	Jr.	2L	Oakland/Skyline
			DEFENSIVE BACKS		
15	Nathan Burton (S)	6-2/200	Sr.	3L	Lilburn, Ga./Greater Atlanta Christian
22	James Butler (S)	6-3/210	Sr.	3L	Climax, Ga./Bainbridge
25	Dennis Davis (CB)	6-0/185	Sr.	3L	Atco, N.J./Edgewood
26	Brian Fleuridor (CB)	5-11/185	So.	SQ	Delray Beach, Fla./Boca Raton
37	Joe Gaston (S)	6-0/195	So.	1L	Marietta, Ga./Walton
11	I-Perfection Harris (CB)	5-9/175	So.	SQ	Staten Island, N.Y./Poly Prep
9	Reuben Houston (CB)	6-0/195	Jr.	2L	Peachtree City, Ga./Starr's Mill
20	Dawan Landry (S)	6-2/215	Jr.	2L	Ama, La./Hahnville
30	Avery Roberson (S)	6-2/190	Fr.	RS	Atlanta/Washington
2	Kenny Scott (CB)	6-1/180	So.	1L	Daytona Beach, Fla./Seabreeze
85	Finesse Usher (CB)	5-11/190	Fr.	RS	Conyers, Ga./Heritage
29	Sam Williams (CB)	5-11/185	So.	SQ	Atlanta/Mays
			SPECIALISTS		
18	Travis Bell (K)	6-1/205	Fr.	RS	Roswell, Ga./Roswell
58	Adam Blizzard (SN)	5-11/210	Sr.	SQ	Buena Vista, Ga./Tri-County
68	Andrew Economos (SN)	6-1/225	Sr.	2L	Atlanta/Marist
92	Eric Griswold (P)	6-1/200	So.	SQ	Marietta, Ga./Kennesaw Mountain
33	David Jordan (K)	6-4/210	So.	1L	Columbus, Ga./Brookstone
52	Kyle Rossi (SN)	6-1/200	Fr.	RS	Fayetteville, Ga./Fayette County
16	David Smith (P)	6-4/210	Sr.	SQ	Mt. Pleasant, S.C./Wando
14	Andy Thomson (P)	5-11/180	Sr.	1L	Coral Springs, Fla./Coral Springs

184 tackles, including 21 in the backfield, as a highly rated prospect out of Decatur, Ga. Guyton is another Georgia-bred prospect with a big upside.

Secondary—Tenuta, a defensive back in college, coaches this unit personally and welcomes back one of the nation's top returning safeties in senior James Butler, who had 119 tackles in his first year as a starter. Butler isn't just a hitter; his five interceptions were the high among returning ACC players.

Dawan Landry, who arrived at Tech as a quarterback and ran the scout team as a redshirt in 2001, was moved to strong safety and has made steady progress. Landry started all 13 games last season, racking up 85 tackles and a pair of interceptions.

A third returning starter, Reuben Houston, could be joined on the corner by Kenny Scott, one of the Yellow Jackets' most promising 2003 recruits. Scott returned kicks as a true freshman last year and played on several other special teams. The speedy sophomore has the look of a future star.

Dennis Davis, a senior who gained valuable experience in nickel situations last season, is another cornerback possibility. Davis missed spring practice but should be ready by the fall.

SPECIAL TEAMS

After waiting his turn for four years, fifth-year senior kicker Dan Burnett provided an impressive followup to record-setting Luke Manget. Now Burnett (17 of 21 field-goal tries) also is gone, and the focus is on sophomore David Jordan, who shared kickoff duties last year. Walk-on Travis Bell also could press for playing time, with freshman Kyle Belcher available if all else fails.

Andy Thomson, who averaged 39.8 yards on 24 punts after taking over for Hal Higgins, needs to show more consistency. If Thomson can't step it up, look for senior David Smith to get the call.

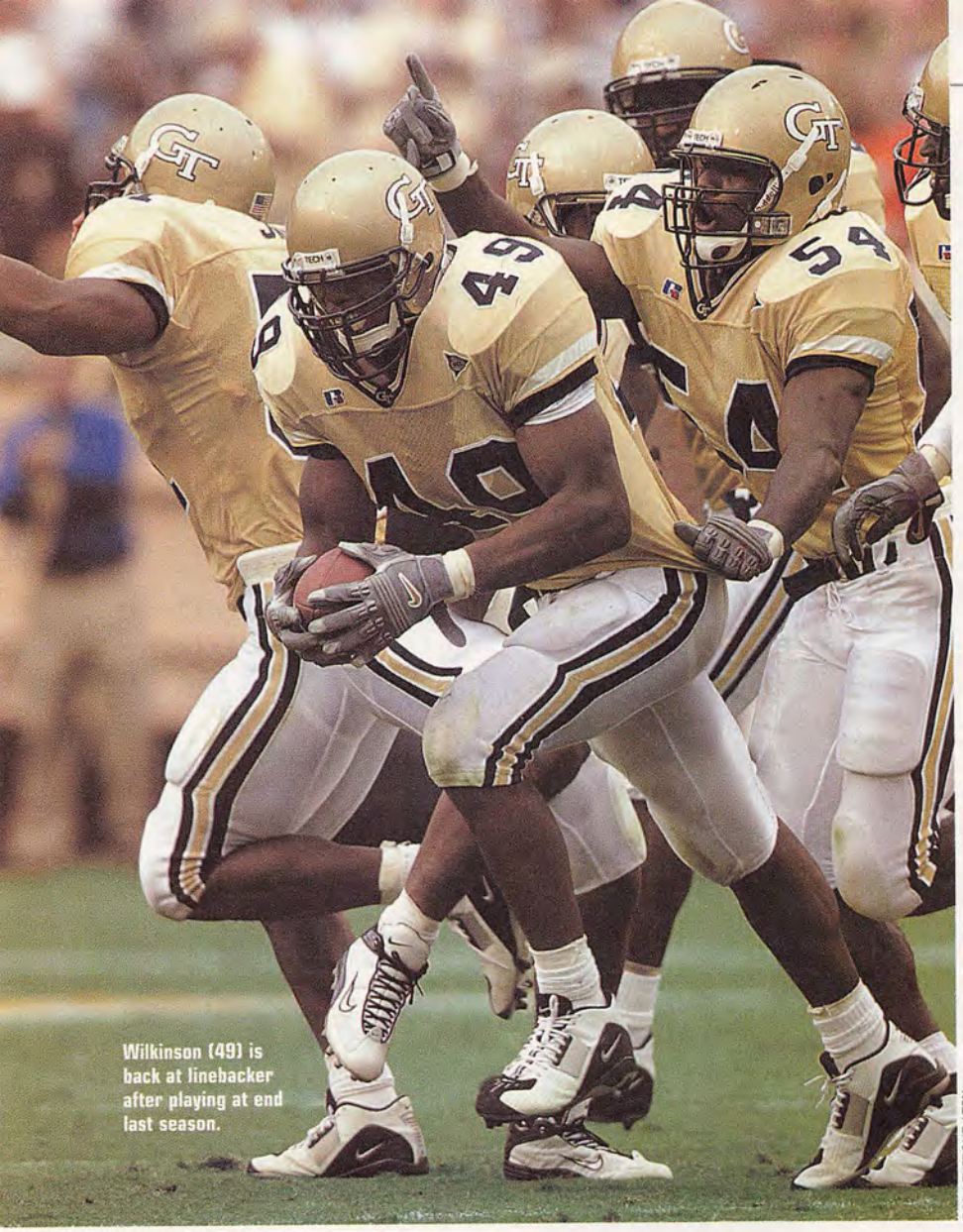
It remains to be seen if Scott's increased duties at cornerback will reduce his availability as a kickoff returner. Georgia Tech also needs to find a successor to primary punt return man Jonathan Smith, whose league-leading 11.7-yard average included two returns for touchdowns.

BOTTOM LINE

The Yellow Jackets have produced seven straight winning seasons, but another seven-victory campaign probably won't excite many followers. Given the increase in ACC membership and no complementary rise in bowl slots, that win total might not be enough to earn an eighth straight bowl appearance.

Few people question Gailey's coaching ability, but the Yellow Jackets' talent isn't at a level with some of Tech's rivals, which reflects the difficulty inherent in recruiting in a Southeastern Conference hotbed. **TSN**

Doug Doughty covers ACC football for the Roanoke (Va.) Times.



Wilkinson (49) is back at linebacker after playing at end last season.

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2003 RESULTS

at BYU	L, 24-13
Auburn	W, 17-3
at Florida State	L, 14-13
Clemson	L, 39-3
at Vanderbilt	W, 24-17 (OT)
N.C. State	W, 29-21
at Wake Forest	W, 24-7
Maryland	W, 7-3
at Duke	L, 41-17
North Carolina	W, 41-24
at Virginia	L, 29-17
Georgia	L, 34-17
*Tulsa	W, 52-10

*Humanitarian Bowl

STATISTICAL LEADERS

Rushing	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
P.J. Daniels	**283**	**1,447**	**5.1**	**10**
Reggie Ball	**139**	**384**	**2.8**	**3**
Chris Woods	**31**	**122**	**3.9**	**1**

Passing	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Int.
Reggie Ball	**350**	**181**	**51.7**	**1,996**	**10**	**11**
A.J. Suggs	24	15	62.5	180	2	2

Receiving	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Jonathan Smith	78	1,138	14.6	5
Nate Curry	**37**	**426**	**11.5**	**3**
John Paul Foschi	24	174	7.2	2

Kicking	XPM	XPA	FGM	FGA	Pts.
Dan Burnett	28	29	17	21	79
Christian Schroeder	3	3	—	—	3

Tackles	Solo	Assists	Total	TFL/Yds.
Keyaron Fox	79	76	155	18/-60
Daryl Smith	64	65	129	17/-41
James Butler	**56**	**63**	**119**	**6/-10**

SACKS: Eric Henderson (11)
INTERCEPTIONS: Butler (5)

Returning players in bold

Team	Avg.	Rank
Rushing offense:	160.5	4th ACC/49th nation
Rushing defense:	100.5	1st/12th
Passing offense:	170.2	8th/100th
Passing defense:	221.7	5th/60th
Total offense:	330.6	9th/94th
Total defense:	322.2	2nd/20th
Turnover margin:	.15	6th/53rd

KEY LOSSES

Offense

K Dan Burnett (17-of-21 FGs, 79 points); T Nat Dorsey; TE John Paul Foschi (24 rec., 174 yards, 2 TDs); C Hugh Reilly; WR Jonathan Smith (78 rec., 1,138 yards, 5 TDs).

Defense

LB Ather Brown; CB Jonathan Cox (66 tackles); LB Keyaron Fox (team-high 155 tackles, 18 tackles for loss); LB Daryl Smith (129 tackles, 17 tackles for loss).

THREE ON THE RISE

OT Kenton Johnson. Johnson has earned as many letters in one year at Georgia Tech as he did in three at Morris Brown, the cross-town Division I-AA school that dropped its football program after the 2002 season. His next letter will have to be earned as a starter on a reshuffled front line.

CB Kenny Scott. Offseason surgery for Dennis Davis meant increased spring practice time for Scott, the top recruit in Tech's 2003 class. Scott made an immediate impact last season as a kickoff returner and has the potential to be the one-on-one cover man who will give coordinator Jon Tenuta more options.

DT Mansfield Wrotto. Wrotto started 12 of 13 games as a true freshman and "surprised a lot (of people), probably even us as coaches, with the way he played and the way he developed through the course of the year," coach Chan Gailey said. Wrotto, who had an impact without benefit of extensive weight work, should be considerably stronger this year.

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

Offense		Defense	
WR	Nate Curry*	**E**	Eric Henderson*
	Xavier McGuire		Chirod Williams
LT	Kyle Wallace*	**T**	Joe Anoai
	Eddy Parker		LeShawn Newberry
LG	Brad Honeycutt*	**T**	Mansfield Wrotto*
	Matt Rhodes		Marcus Harris
C	Kevin Tuminello	**E**	Travis Parker*
	Travis Kelly		Adamm Oliver
RG	Andy Tidwell-Neal*	**WLB**	KaMichael Hall
	Brad Brezina		Philip Wheeler
RT	Salih Besirevic	**MLB**	Gerris Wilkinson*
	Kenton Johnson		Nick Moore
TE	Darius Williams	**SLB**	Chris Reis
	George Cooper		Tabugbo Anyansi
WR	Levon Thomas	**CB**	Reuben Houston*
	Mark Logan		Brian Fleuridor
QB	Reggie Ball*	**SS**	Dawan Landry*
	Patrick Carter		Nathan Burton
RB	P.J. Daniels*	**FS**	James Butler*
	Chris Woods		Nathan Burton
FB	Jimmy Dixon*	**CB**	Kenny Scott
	Ajenavi Eziemefe		I-Perfection Harris
K	David Jordan	**P**	Andy Thomson*
KR	Kenny Scott	**PR**	Nathan Burton

* Returning starter

WAKE FOREST DEMON DEACONS

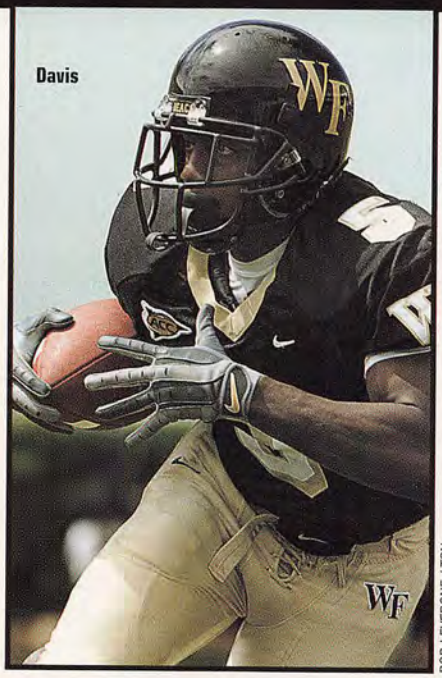
Projected finish: 5-6 2-6/9th in conference

By Michael Bradley

Even though the 2003 season ended without the giddy bowl triumph that made 2002 feel so good, the Wake Forest program stayed on course. Jim Grobe Version 3.0 featured the same unpredictable offense, a couple of where-did-those-come-from wins and the struggles that go with trying to forge a competitor at the smallest major-conference school in Division I-A.

Wake's 5-7 record last season was not unexpected, given the large number of new faces among the starters, but it wasn't without disappointments, including losses in the last three games—and four of the final five—and some shaky play on defense. Chalk up much of the trouble to Wake's youth, particularly on defense. A schedule that included eight 2003 bowl participants also didn't help.

This season, Wake will be improved on the field, if not in the won-loss department.



Davis

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Seven '03 bowl teams are on the schedule, including ACC newcomers Virginia Tech and Miami. Wake's challenge is to continue its improvement at a rate that allows for success in the beefed-up ACC, which is no small feat.

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	TSN pick
Sept. 4	at Clemson	L
Sept. 11	at East Carolina	W
Sept. 18	N. Carolina A&T	W
Sept. 25	Boston College	W
Oct. 2	at N.C. State	L
Oct. 9	Virginia Tech	L
Oct. 23	Florida State	L
Oct. 30	Duke	W
Nov. 13	North Carolina	W
Nov. 20	at Miami	L
Nov. 27	at Maryland	L

Strength of schedule rank
Conference: 11
Nation: 67

GAME OF THE YEAR

Wake's four-game homestand that begins with Virginia Tech will be crucial to the season. Not only will Wake be able to gauge itself against one of the ACC newcomers, it will get a chance to gather momentum for rest of that key run into the second half of the season. Defeat Tech, and bowl aspirations will grow considerably. Lose, and the Deacons must wait two weeks for their next game—against Florida State.

Seven bowl teams dot the docket in an odd configuration that begins with a rare season-opening conference game at Clemson. The Deacons got a break when Air Force asked out of a home date and was replaced with North Carolina A&T. That helps, particularly with Boston College, N.C. State and Virginia Tech looming the next three weeks. The Tech game begins a stretch of four home games that closes with visits from expected victims Duke and North Carolina. But the season finishes with a pair of big road tests, at Miami and Maryland. If the Deacons enter that twinbill needing victories for bowl eligibility, it won't be good.

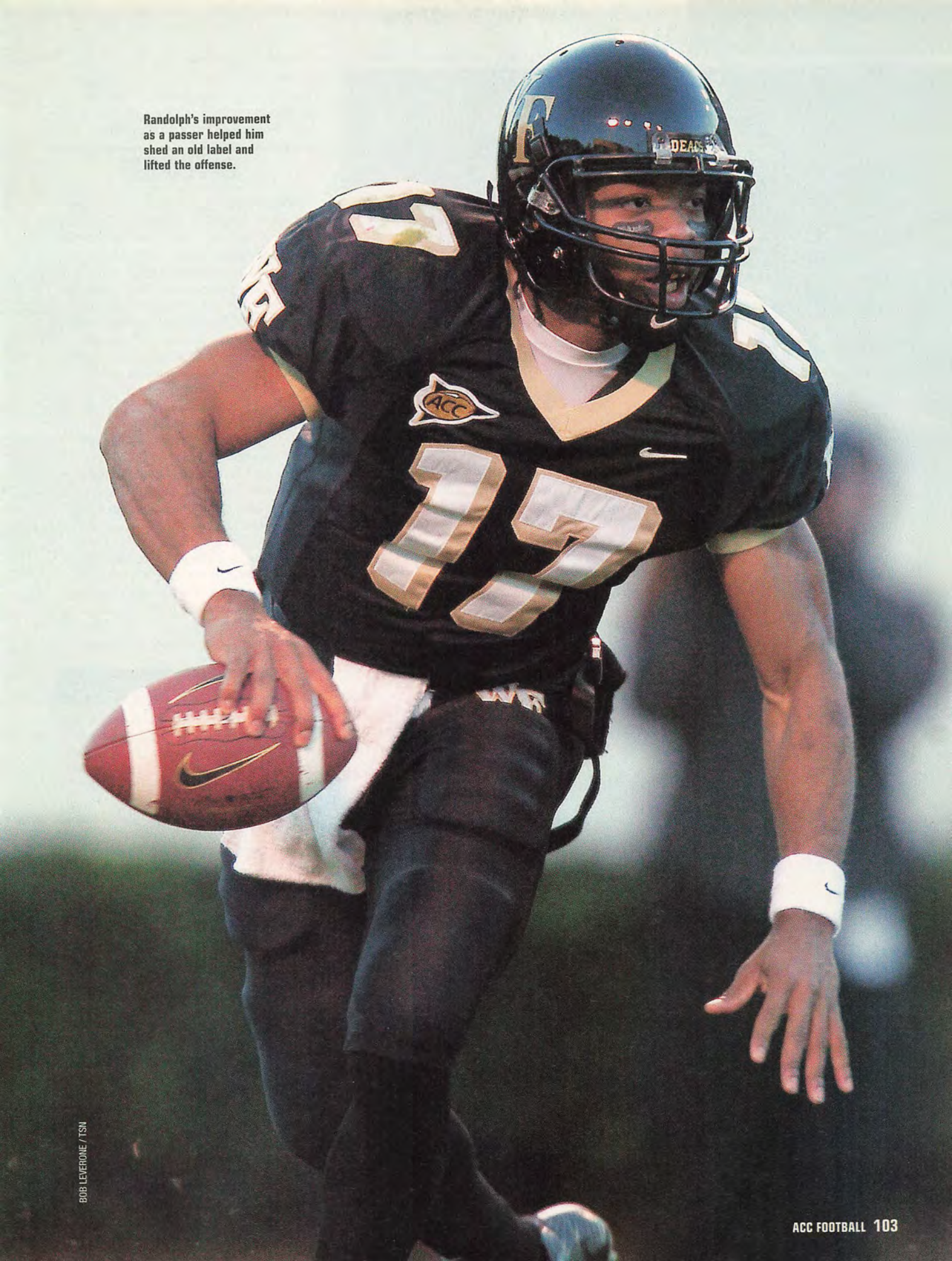
COACHING

Strategies—Grobe has done a commendable job creating excitement and producing success at Wake during his three years at the helm. His 18-18 record in Winston Salem shows that. You have to go back to the mid-1920s to find a coach who was that successful at the start of his Wake Forest tenure. (Hank Garrity went 19-7-1 from 1923-25.) Grobe has done it with an option offense that relies heavily on precision and an opponent's lack of preparation time. When it clicks, the Deacons' attack can put up plenty of points, a fact proved last year, when Wake topped 30 points on six occasions.

The defense is in the capable hands of Dean Hood, whose units regularly pile up the turnovers and put pressure on opponents to make quick decisions. Last year's team surrendered a lot of points, although it forced 26 turnovers. The team's defenders are light and fast, and Hood puts them in position to make plays with his creative schemes. This year, they'll be switching from a 3-3-5 base to a 4-3 look. Though some of the previous system will appear at times, Wake is moving toward a more conventional approach, which it hopes will allow it to match up against any kind of attack.

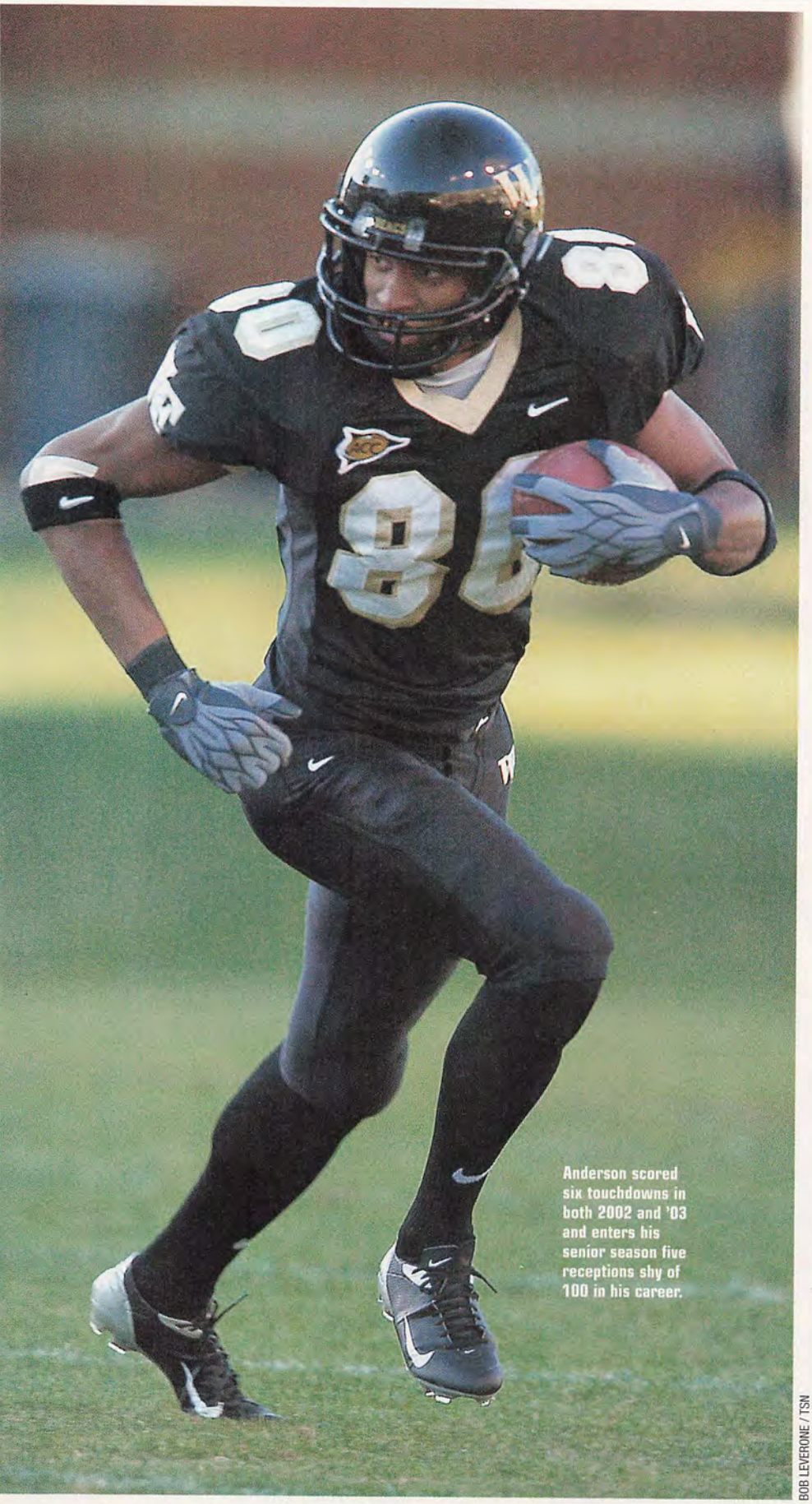
Style—Grobe is an intense man who enjoys coaching but doesn't want his staff or players to mistake fun for a lack of discipline or hard work. Grobe is creative, and his coaches are encouraged to look at things differently and to try new methods

More on Wake Forest at foxsports.com/named/FS/CFB/teams



Randolph's improvement as a passer helped him shed an old label and lifted the offense.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN



Anderson scored six touchdowns in both 2002 and '03 and enters his senior season five receptions shy of 100 in his career.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

of motivation and instruction. That outlook is perfect at a place such as Wake Forest, which can't rely on a parade of blue-chippers to whip up on rivals.

OFFENSE

Quarterbacks—Cory Randolph entered last season labeled an option quarterback, a well-deserved distinction which nonetheless intimated that his passing skills were below par. By season's end, Randolph had not only cemented his status as a pitch-and-run specialist but provided evidence he can produce through the air, too. Randolph ran for 404 yards and five touchdowns and completed 58.5 percent of his passes for 1,773 yards with only 10 interceptions in 246 attempts. He ran Grobe's multiple option attack confidently and enters 2004 as one of the ACC's top quarterbacks. Should he continue to mature as a passer, he'll be even more dangerous.

Randolph is top-notch, but Wake fans can't wait to see what backup Ben Mauk can do. The redshirt freshman threw for 6,540 yards and 76 touchdowns as a senior in high school. He ran a no-huddle offense and has the skills necessary to make the Wake attack crackle. Though the starting job is clearly Randolph's, expect Mauk to take some snaps early this season. Grobe probably will use Mauk like he used Randolph as a redshirt freshman in '02, when Randolph played a

An ACC coach says...

Jim Grobe's offense is what the wishbone used to be. It's hard to prepare for everything they do in just one week. There are a lot of components besides the option. They do a little zone play, and they can run the dive and the pitch. They also make it tough because each week, they do a little something they didn't do the week before. They can beat you with that system, even if you are way more talented than they are. And if you don't bring your "A" game, they'll make you look bad. The best word to describe them is "team." ... **Cory Randolph** is a great field general. He took some shots last year and never flinched. They allow him to change plays at the line, and he does a good job of that. ... Grobe is a tough coach. He wants the team to run the ball, and he's going to win some close games because his team is tough. ... They used the 3-3-5 last year, and though they'll still use some of that, they're going to go to a four-man front this season. That should help them. Their front line is undersized, but they can run. The difference between Wake now and before is that they don't care about size. It's all about speed. If there's a little guy who can run, they'll stick him in there and let him run to the ball. ... They were young last year, especially up front. Now, they have some experience there, plus they have better numbers than they did. That will allow them to play that four-man front and help them against the run.

minimum of one series a half in place of starter James MacPherson.

Running backs—Chris Barclay followed his impressive 2002 debut by rushing for 1,192 yards (second-most in school history) and scoring 12 times last year. He returns to a collection of great expectations and should threaten 1,500 yards this year, as both he and Randolph become more familiar with the Wake attack. Barclay has good enough speed, but his true strengths are his quickness and instincts.

Junior Cornelius Birgs averaged just 3.3 yards per carry last year but scored five times. Like Barclay, he is 5-10, but he carries 30 more pounds on his 214-pound frame. Sophomore D'Angelo Bryant is even bigger (6-2, 239) and can provide a bruising changeup to the other backs. Redshirt freshman Micah Andrews, son of former Atlanta Falcons standout Williams Andrews, also could find work this year.

Receivers—Wake's pass catchers might not be as big as Clemson's were last year, but there is good size on the outside and plenty of experience. Four of last year's top five receivers return, including 6-3 senior Jason Anderson, who averaged 17.1 yards on 44 receptions last year and scored six times. He likely will team with quick junior Chris Davis (19 catches) and possession man Willie Idlette (32 receptions), who is dangerous whether catching the ball or running it from slot and wing spots.

Sophomore Nate Morton, who caught 14 passes last year, will be part of the rotation, with four redshirt freshmen (look out for speedster Kevin Marion) also fighting for playing time.

The tight end job will go to senior R.D. Montgomery or redshirt freshman Zac Selmon, the son of former Oklahoma star Dewey. John Tereshinski, another redshirt freshman, also could be in the mix, as could sophomore Dan Callahan, who broke his leg last season and missed spring drills.

Line—The Demon Deacons welcome back three offensive starters from '03, including *Sporting News* freshman All-American Steve Vallos, who is moving from left guard to right tackle to take over for departed second-team All-ACC standout Mark Moroz. Vallos is a quick, strong blocker who should do fine on the outside. He'll work beside another veteran if Craig Jones can win back his starting job from Greg Adkins after a shaky spring. Senior Blake Lingruen, a seasoned performer who enters his third year as a starter, mans the pivot.

The left side features no returning regulars but does have some experience. Senior Joe Salsich moves into Vallos' spot at left guard and is the kind of quick player who is perfect for the Wake system. Junior Wesley Bryant, who started four games but played mostly as a backup to Tyson Clabo at left tackle last year, has the strength and quickness to be a solid full-time starter.

NICKEL PACKAGE

Five things to look for

1. Cory Randolph made big strides last year as a passer and a game manager. Now an experienced starter, he's ready to become an effective weapon under center.
2. A couple of solid recruiting classes have allowed the Deacons to fill backup spots with upgraded performers. They offer hope for the future.
3. The defense will be better. Dean Hood's decision to go with a 4-3 base will pay dividends, as will the increased experience of the players he's using.
4. The Deacons will remain one of the toughest teams in the ACC to prepare for, thanks to their option offense that causes nightmares for teams getting ready in just one week.
5. Because Miami and Maryland are looming at the end of the year, it's imperative the Deacons get off to a good start.

QUICK HITS

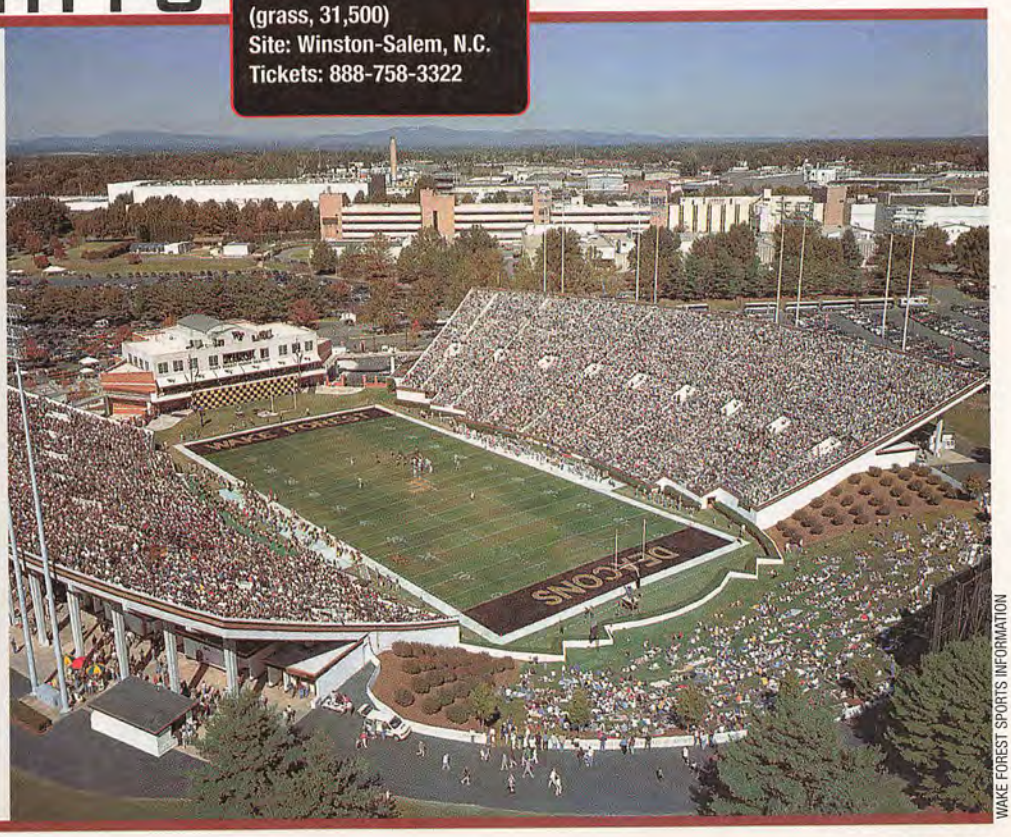
COACHING STAFF

Head coach: Jim Grobe (18-18, 3 years; 51-51-1 overall, 9 years)
Assistant head coach/running backs/kickers: Billy Mitchell (5th year)
Offensive coordinator/offensive line: Steed Lobotzke (2nd year, 4th overall)
Defensive coordinator/safeties: Dean Hood (4th year)
Fullbacks/tight ends: Tom Elrod (2nd year)
Cornerbacks: Keith Henry (3rd year, 5th overall)
Linebackers: Brad Lambert (4th year)
Defensive line/recruiting coordinator: Ray McCartney (4th year)
Quarterbacks: Jeff Mullen (2nd year, 4th overall)
Wide receivers: Kevin Sherman (4th year)

FORMATIONS AND FIGURES

Offensive scheme: Pro I
Defensive scheme: 4-3 and 3-3-5
Last league title won: 1970
Last bowl appearance: 2002
2003 TSN preseason rank: 70
2003 record: 5-7; ACC: 3-5/7th
Website: www.wakeforestsports.com

Stadium: Groves (grass, 31,500)
Site: Winston-Salem, N.C.
Tickets: 888-758-3322



WAKE FOREST SPORTS INFORMATION

RECRUITING

2004 CLASS

RATINGS BY RIVALS.COM

NAME	POS.	HT./WT.	HOMETOWN/SCHOOL
★★★★★ AMONG THE NATION'S TOP 30 PROSPECTS			
None			
★★★★ AMONG THE NATION'S TOP 200 PROSPECTS			
None			
★★★ AMONG THE NATION'S TOP 600 PROSPECTS			
Anthony Davis	DE	6-6/235	Columbia, S.C./Spring Valley
Alphonso Smith	CB	5-10/180	Pahokee, Fla./Pahokee
Jeremy Thompson	DE	6-5/230	Charlotte/Charlotte Christian
★★ SOLID DIVISION I PROSPECT			
Stanley Arnoux	LB	6-2/218	Sunrise, Fla./Glades Day
Richard Belton	LB	6-1/230	Chapel Hill, N.C./East Chapel Hill
Eric Berry	LB	6-2/245	Suffolk, Va./Nansemond River
Demir Boldin	WR	6-1/205	Pahokee, Fla./Pahokee
Chip Brinkman	WR	6-2/210	Belleair, Fla./Clearwater Central Catholic
Mike Causey	LB	6-0/210	Wilmington, N.C./E.A. Laney
Aaron Curry	LB	6-3/210	Fayetteville, N.C./E.E. Smith
Brandon Drumgoole	DE	6-6/235	Greensboro, N.C./Ragsdale
Eric Gaskins	DT	6-3/270	Durham, N.C./Hargrave Military Academy
Allan Holland	QB	6-2/220	Hazard, Ky./Perry County Central
Kerry Major	FS	6-1/170	Toccoa, Ga./Stephen County
Chantz McClinic	FS	5-10/190	Rome, Ga./Darlington School
Kevin Patterson	CB	5-11/175	Kingsland, Ga./Camden County
Sam Swank	K	6-1/180	Jacksonville Beach, Fla./Fletcher
Chip Vaughn	WR	6-2/190	Fairfax, Va./Robinson Secondary
Antonio Wilson	LB	6-3/215	Pahokee, Fla./Pahokee

INSIDE DISH

Wake Forest's class ranked near the bottom of the ACC and No. 95 nationally, but that doesn't mean the Demon Deacons failed to address important needs. **Jim Grobe**'s staff worked hard to upgrade the team's speed and athletic ability on both sides of the ball, and there are several newcomers who could have an immediate impact. … Linebacker was a target position, and the Deacons signed a quality group. It's rare that any program would take six linebackers in one year, but that's what Wake Forest did, highlighted by Florida product **Stanley Arnoux**. … Another potential impact recruit is defensive end **Anthony Davis**, whom the Deacons lured out of South Carolina, beating out the likes of Auburn, Clemson and N.C. State for his services. He has a great frame and nice instincts that should land him playing time early in his career. Davis will be joined on the defensive line by **Jeremy Thompson**, who was ranked No. 40 nationally at strongside defensive end. … Expect to see cornerback **Alphonso Smith** on the field early. The Floridian was one of the nation's top 50 corners. … The quarterback position was a struggle throughout the recruiting process. The Deacons wound up with **Allan Holland**, a sleeper prospect from Kentucky who emerged in the late stages. … The offensive line wasn't a major priority for 2004, but it isn't generally a good thing to have a class that features no players at the position. … Wake beat out Purdue for possession receiver **Chip Brinkman**. The coaches believe he could develop into a better player than advertised. *—Rivals.com*

The biggest problem Wake will have up front is its depth. Three of the primary backups are redshirt freshmen, and although all have great size and plenty of talent, they are green.

DEFENSE

Line—If the Wake defense is to improve this year, there must be increased production up front. Opponents cavorted for 4.5 yards per carry last season, and Wake managed just 11 sacks, a big reason teams completed 61.9 percent of their throws against the Deacons. So, Hood will go with a four-man front on most downs.

Three starters return, and there is good depth available. Topping the list is senior end Jerome Nichols, who had 11 tackles for loss last year and two sacks. Nichols also intercepted two passes. He has a good blend of size and quickness. Backing him up is talented sophomore Bryan Andrews, who had two sacks last year.

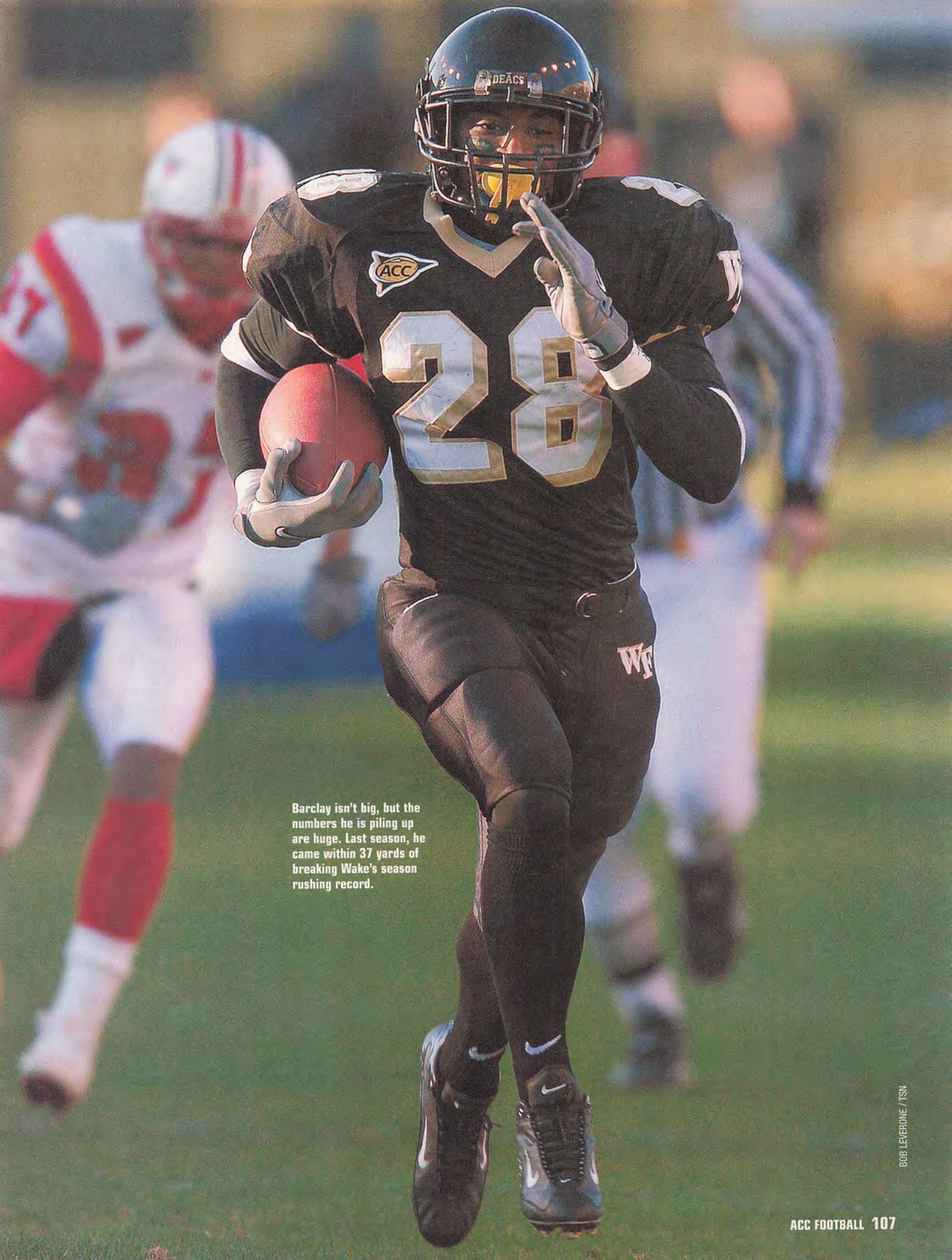
It will come down to a battle between sophomore Jyles Tucker, a returning starter, and redshirt freshman Matthew Robinson at the other end spot. John Finklea, who missed spring drills because of a torn Achilles' tendon suffered in offseason conditioning, will try to get back into the rotation by September.

Inside, junior Goryal Scales returns to his starting spot at nose tackle and should work next to junior Cori Stukes, whose four tackles behind the line last season could be a harbinger of good things to come. Redshirt freshman Jeromy Jones will get a long look at one tackle position, and true freshman Eric Gaskins, who participated in spring drills, has the size and potential to be a future force at nose tackle.

Linebackers—There have been changes here, too, though the three-backer configuration remains the same. Senior Brad White has moved from the middle, where he made 78 tackles last season, to the weak side and should be a greater presence because of his ability to find the ball. Senior Caron Bracy is at the strongside spot after leading the Deacons with 90 tackles a year ago. A former "bandit" in the old configuration, Bracy (6-0, 222) is light and quick.

Expect to see sophomore Pierre Easley in the middle. He played in 10 games last year and made 12 tackles. Another sophomore, Napoleon Sykes, backs him up. Like Bracy, Sykes is light and a former defensive back. But the Deacons are counting on his speed to make up for any lack of heft.

Secondary—There is plenty of experience here, and Wake fans should hope the secondary members have long memories about last year's struggles and the commitment to turn things around. A pair of senior cornerbacks—Marcus McGruder and Eric King—is a good place to start. King was strong last



Barclay isn't big, but the numbers he is piling up are huge. Last season, he came within 37 yards of breaking Wake's season rushing record.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

DEMON DEACONS ROSTER

NO.	NAME	HT./WT.	CL.	EXP.	HOMETOWN/PREVIOUS SCHOOL
			QUARTERBACKS		
18	Anders Larson	6-3/175	Jr.	SQ	Winston-Salem, N.C./Mount Tabor
12	Ben Mauk	6-1/205	Fr.	RS	Kenton, Ohio/Kenton
17	Cory Randolph	6-1/188	Jr.	2L	Lake City, Fla./Columbia
14	Ben Rieling	6-3/175	So.	SQ	Alpharetta, Ga./Milton
			RUNNING BACKS		
21	Micah Andrews	5-10/190	Fr.	RS	Duluth, Ga./Greater Atlanta Christian
28	Chris Barclay	5-10/174	Jr.	2L	Louisville, Ky./Male Traditional
2	Cornelius Birgs	5-10/214	Jr.	2L	Ft. Lauderdale, Fla./Boyd Anderson
38	D'Angelo Bryant	6-2/239	So.	1L	New Ellenton, S.C./Silver Bluff
39	Alonzo Chisolm	5-9/200	So.	SQ	Irmo, S.C./Dutch Fork
49	Damon McWhite (FB)	6-2/258	So.	1L	Woodbury, N.J./West Deptford
			RECEIVERS/TIGHT ENDS		
80	Jason Anderson	6-3/182	Sr.	3L	Charlotte/Butler
97	Dan Callahan (TE)	6-4/259	So.	1L	Montclair, N.J./Montclair
96	Chrsitopher Carrothers (TE)	6-3/252	Sr.	1L	Albemarle, N.C./Albemarle
5	Chris Davis	5-11/179	Jr.	2L	St. Petersburg, Fla./Gibbs
99	Chris Griebel (TE)	6-2/220	So.	SQ	Weatogue, Conn./Northwest Catholic
81	William Hollis	6-1/185	So.	SQ	Jonesboro, Ark./Jonesboro
82	Willie Idlette	5-11/169	So.	1L	Chattanooga, Tenn./Baylor
86	Delon Lowe	6-2/190	Fr.	RS	Fayetteville, N.C./E.E. Smith
37	Kevin Marion	5-9/168	Fr.	RS	St. Petersburg, Fla./Dixie Hollins
87	R.D. Montgomery (TE)	6-6/229	Sr.	3L	Wilmington, N.C./Laney
83	Nate Morton	6-3/200	So.	1L	Harlingen, Texas/Hargrave Military Academy
84	Zac Selmon (TE)	6-5/230	Fr.	RS	Norman, Okla./Norman
88	Cassiel Smith	6-2/203	Jr.	SQ	Westwood, N.J./Westwood Regional
89	John Tereshinski (TE)	6-4/225	Fr.	RS	Athens, Ga./Athens Academy
26	Tavo Woods	5-10/170	Fr.	RS	Altamonte Springs, Fla./Lyman
			OFFENSIVE LINEMEN		
69	Dustin Abercrombie (T)	6-3/269	So.	SQ	Kannapolis, N.C./A.L. Brown
66	Greg Adkins (C)	6-3/283	Jr.	2L	Lakeland, Fla./Lake Gibson
79	Matt Brim (T)	6-6/310	Fr.	RS	Belews Creek, N.C./Carver
72	Wesley Bryant (T)	6-4/285	Jr.	1L	Stanley, N.C./Vance
71	Louis Frazier (G)	6-3/285	Fr.	RS	Clearwater, Fla./Clearwater
61	Arby Jones (G)	6-4/270	So.	1L	Somerset, Ky./Pulaski Southwestern
60	Craig Jones (G)	6-0/300	Jr.	2L	Garland, Texas/Garland
74	Steve Justice (G)	6-4/275	Fr.	RS	New Smyrna Beach, Fla./New Smyrna Beach
76	Blake Lingruen (C)	6-4/276	Sr.	3L	Liberty Center, Ohio/Liberty Center
53	Aaron McKenzie (T)	6-2/290	Fr.	RS	Lakeland, Fla./George Jenkins
73	Jarrett Osborne-Revis (G)	6-2/315	So.	SQ	Oakridge, Tenn./Knoxville Catholic
62	Brodie Overstreet (T)	6-7/290	Fr.	RS	Danville, Ky./Boyle County
67	Kreg Rotthoff (C)	6-3/292	Jr.	1L	Massillon, Ohio/Washington
70	Joe Salsich (G)	6-4/280	Sr.	3L	Annapolis, Md./Severn School
75	Steve Vallos (T)	6-3/302	So.	1L	Boardman, Ohio/Boardman
			DEFENSIVE LINEMEN		
48	Bryan Andrews (E)	6-6/243	So.	1L	Lima, Ohio/Lima
91	John Finklea (E)	6-5/273	Jr.	2L	Wheaton, Md./DeMatha Catholic
92	Jeromy Jones (T)	6-2/265	Fr.	RS	Marietta, Ga./Wheeler
85	Jerome Nichols (E)	6-2/274	Sr.	3L	Glenn Dale, Md./Sidwell Friends
58	Matthew Robinson (E)	6-2/230	Fr.	RS	Cedartown, Ga./Cedartown
57	Goryal Scales (T)	6-0/283	Jr.	2L	Winston-Salem, N.C./Carver
90	Jamil Smith (T)	6-3/257	So.	1L	Black Mountain, N.C./Charles Owen
52	Cori Stukes (T)	6-0/250	Jr.	2L	Wilmington, N.C./E.A. Laney
95	Zachary Stukes (T)	6-4/250	Fr.	RS	Marietta, Ga./Sprayberry
55	Jyles Tucker (E)	6-4/250	So.	1L	Dover, N.J./Hargrave Military Academy
			LINEBACKERS		
46	James Adams	6-3/212	So.	1L	Durham, N.C./Northern Durham
56	Jonathan Abbate	6-0/242	Fr.	RS	Powder Springs, Ga./Harrison
8	Caron Bracy	6-0/222	Sr.	3L	Jacksonville/Trinity Christian
51	Pierre Easley	6-0/236	So.	1L	Stone Mountain, Ga./Marist
41	Chris Owen	6-2/215	Jr.	SQ	Forest, Va./Jefferson Forest
44	Jason Pratt	6-0/221	Jr.	2L	Hixson, Tenn./Hixson
11	Napoleon Sykes	5-9/212	So.	1L	Woodstock, Md./Gilman School
45	Brad White	6-1/226	Sr.	2L	Portsmouth, R.I./Bishop Hendricken
			DEFENSIVE BACKS		
6	Dominic Anderson (SS)	6-0/204	Jr.	1L	Hollywood, Fla./St. Thomas Aquinas
35	Devin Blake (CB)	5-10/178	Fr.	RS	Jacksonville/First Coast
27	Warren Braxton (FS)	6-0/207	Sr.	2L	Madison Heights, Va./Amherst County
23	Johnny Edwards (CB)	5-11/180	Fr.	RS	Fayetteville, Ga./Starrs Mill
22	Josh Gattis (FS)	6-2/195	So.	1L	Durham, N.C./Northern Durham
30	Patrick Ghee (SS)	6-2/206	So.	1L	Kingsport, Tenn./Dobyns-Bennett
9	Eric King (CB)	5-9/185	Sr.	3L	Woodstock, Md./McDonogh
36	Michael Manfredi (FS)	5-10/185	So.	SQ	Clemmons, N.C./Marist
32	Aaron Mason (CB)	5-10/185	Fr.	RS	Lexington, Ky./Paul Lawrence Dunbar
3	Marcus McGruder (CB)	5-9/175	Sr.	3L	Fairburn, Ga./North Atlanta
36	Kenneth Moore	6-0/186	Fr.	RS	Charlotte/Butler
4	Robert Simmons (S)	5-8/183	Jr.	1L	Hope Mills, N.C./South View
7	Riley Swanson (CB)	6-0/171	So.	SQ	Fayetteville, Ga./Sandy Creek
			SPECIALISTS		
94	Steve Hale (P)	6-0/201	Sr.	2L	Eden, N.C./Eden Morehead
81	Ryan Plackemeier (P/K)	6-3/230	Jr.	2L	Bonsall, Calif./Fallbrook
23	Jon Temple (K)	5-11/197	So.	SQ	Durham, N.C./Northern Durham
93	Matt Wisnosky (K)	6-1/181	Jr.	2L	Moorestown, N.J./Moorestown

year, picking off three passes and knocking away 15 more to go with his 59 tackles. McGruder had 54 stops and batted down four throws. Riley Swanson, a sophomore who made 41 tackles last year, will be the nickel back and has tremendous potential.

An interesting battle shapes up at free safety between Josh Gattis, last year's main backup at the position, and senior Warren Braxton, who started at the strong spot in '03 and has been moved. Braxton's resume includes 66 tackles and two interceptions, and Gettis had 34 stops a year ago. With Braxton gone from strong safety, sophomore Patrick Ghee moves in. He had 17 tackles last year and has a great frame (6-2, 206) for the position.

SPECIAL TEAMS

First-team All-ACC punter Ryan Plackemeier returns after averaging 45.6 yards per kick last year. About the only area in which the junior needs to improve is pinning opponents inside the 20-yard line. Only 11 of his 57 kicks did that last year. The field-goal situation is decent with Plackemeier (5 of 7) and Matt Wisnosky (3 of 5), who handles the longer kicks. But neither is a standout, and the Deacons must improve on last year's three blocked kicks.

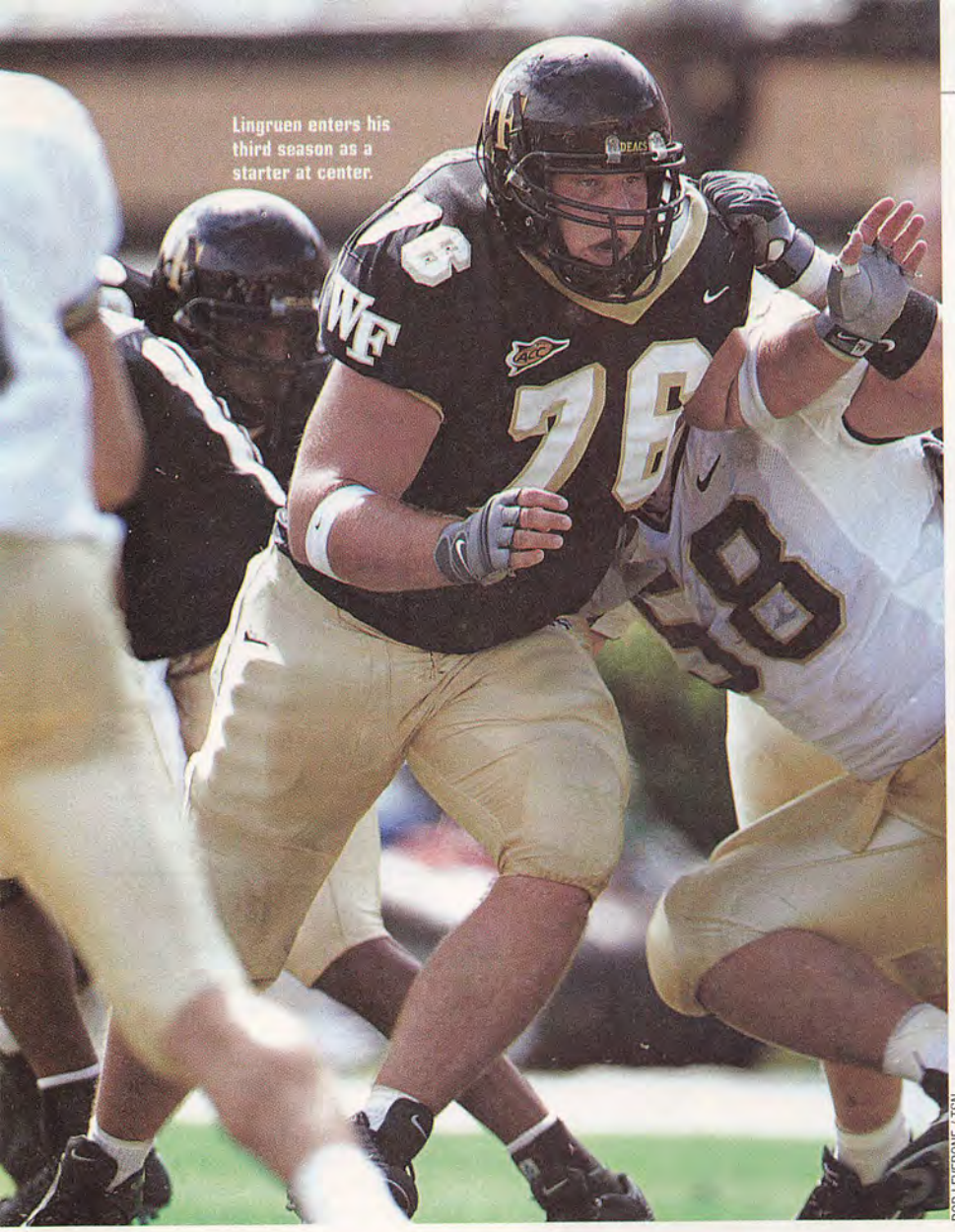
The return game could use a lift, too. Though Idlette is reliable, he isn't much of a breakaway threat. He averaged just 7.0 yards bringing back punts and 20.5 taking back kicks last year. The coverage units are solid and should get better because of improved recruiting and better team speed.

BOTTOM LINE

There is no question Wake will be better this season. Increased experience on defense and the continued maturity of offensive weapons such as Randolph, Barclay and Anderson will mean a lot. Depth is improving thanks to better recruiting. But oh, that schedule. The arrivals of Miami and Virginia Tech in the ACC don't help a team such as Wake that always is battling to build its program. That, more than anything, is the Deacons' biggest challenge.

Though Grobe has done a terrific job of making the Deacons competitive almost every week, the challenge is to sustain excellence in what is becoming one of the nation's top three or four conferences. Wake's front line players are solid, and the defense should be better, but the Deacons are young and need more time to grow into contenders. Expect five wins, with an outside shot at seven. **TSN**

Michael Bradley is a free-lance writer based in Philadelphia.



Lingruen enters his third season as a starter at center.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

2003 RESULTS

at Boston College	W, 32-28
N.C. State	W, 38-24
Purdue	L, 16-10
East Carolina	W, 34-16
at Virginia	L, 27-24
Georgia Tech	L, 24-7
at Duke	W, 42-13
at Florida State	L, 48-24
Clemson	W, 45-17
at North Carolina	L, 42-34
Connecticut	L, 51-17
Maryland	L, 41-28

STATISTICAL LEADERS

Rushing	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Chris Barclay	**235**	**1,192**	**5.1**	**12**
Cory Randolph	**94**	**404**	**4.3**	**5**
Cornelius Birgs	**103**	**344**	**3.3**	**5**
Willie Idlette	**41**	**234**	**5.7**	**3**

Passing	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Int.
Cory Randolph	**246**	**144**	**58.5**	**1,773**	**8**	**10**

Receiving	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Jason Anderson	**44**	**751**	**17.1**	**6**
Willie Idlette	**32**	**319**	**10.0**	**0**
Chris Davis	**19**	**249**	**13.1**	**1**

Kicking	XPM	XPA	FGM	FGA	Pts.
Matt Wisnosky	**25**	**27**	**3**	**5**	**34**
Ryan Plackemeier	**16**	**16**	**5**	**7**	**31**

Tackles	Solo	Assists	Total	TFL/Yds.
Caron Bracy	**68**	**22**	**90**	**4/-5**
Quintin Williams	60	28	88	4/-9
Brad White	**51**	**27**	**78**	**5/-7**
Warren Braxton	**47**	**19**	**66**	**3/-10**
Kellen Brantley	38	27	65	9/-55

SACKS: Brantley (4.0)
INTERCEPTIONS: Eric King (3)

Returning players in bold

Team	Avg.	Rank
Rushing offense:	203.2	1st ACC/19th nation
Rushing defense:	174.3	8th/79th
Passing offense:	151.5	9th/108th
Passing defense:	279.8	8th/113th
Total offense:	354.8	7th/76th
Total defense:	454.2	8th/107th
Turnover margin:	.58	2nd/20th

KEY LOSSES

Offense

FB Nick Burney (32 carries, 83 yards, 4 TDs); G Tyson Clabo; T Mark Moroz; TE Josh Warren (4 rec., 33 yards).

Defense

OLB Kellen Brantley (65 tackles, 9 tackles for loss, team-high 4 sacks); OLB Obi Chukwumah (29 tackles); FS Quintin Williams (88 tackles).

THREE ON THE RISE

SS Patrick Ghee. Ghee must have done something right last year. Why else would Wake coaches have moved starter Warren Braxton to free safety, where he began the spring second on the depth chart? Ghee is big and fast, and he is a Dean's List student who should be quite comfortable making defensive calls in the secondary.

CB Riley Swanson. Even though the Deacons have a pair of returning senior starters on the corner, there is no denying Swanson's potential. He is the kind of big corner teams need to handle big wide receivers. Swanson, who has great instincts and speed, is a complete package who needs to be on the field.

RT Steve Vallos. The sophomore was a *Sporting News* freshman All-American at left guard last year and now will be counted on to anchor the Deacons' forward wall. It's a big responsibility because both tackles are gone, but Vallos is up to it. He is one of the strongest Deacons and should be a good anchor for the line for two or three more years.

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

	Offense		Defense
WR	Jason Anderson*	**LE**	Jerome Nichols*
	Nate Morton		Bryan Andrews
LT	Wesley Bryant	**NT**	Goryal Scales*
	Matt Brim		Jamil Smith
LG	Joe Salsich	**T**	Cori Stukes
	Louis Frazier		Jeromy Jones
C	Blake Lingruen*	**RE**	Jyles Tucker*
	Kreg Rotthoff		Matthew Robinson
RG	Greg Adkins	**SLB**	Caron Bracy*
	Craig Jones*		James Adams
RT	Steve Vallos*	**MLB**	Pierre Easley
	Brodie Overstreet		Napoleon Sykes
TE	Zac Selmon	**WLB**	Brad White*
	R.D. Montgomery		Jason Pratt
WR	Willie Idlette*	**CB**	Eric King*
	Chris Davis		Aaron Mason
QB	Cory Randolph*	**SS**	Patrick Ghee
	Ben Mauk		Dominic Anderson
RB	Chris Barclay*	**FS**	Josh Gattis
	Cornelius Birgs		Warren Braxton*
FB	Damon McWhite	**CB**	Marcus McGruder*
	D'Angelo Bryant		Riley Swanson
K	Matt Wisnosky*	**P**	Ryan Plackemeier*
KR	Willie Idlette*	**PR**	Willie Idlette*

* Returning starter

NORTH CAROLINA TAR HEELS

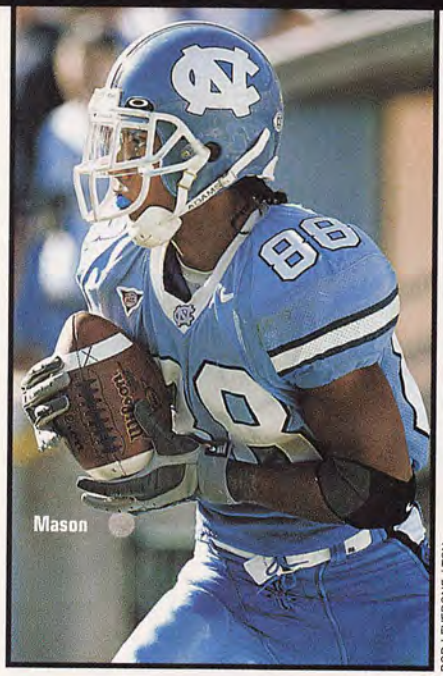
Projected finish: 3-8 1-7/10th in conference

By Doug Doughty

In the six seasons since Mack Brown's departure, North Carolina has posted a combined record of 29-42 under successors Carl Torbush and John Bunting, including a 2-10 record last year that followed a 3-9 finish in 2002. Carolina has posted back-to-back 1-7 conference records and last year was alone in last place, courtesy of a 30-22 home loss to Duke in the season finale. The Tar Heels had won the previous 13 meetings between the teams.

Uncertainty concerning the status of athletic director Dick Baddour, whose contract eventually was extended, might have bought Bunting some time to turn around the program. He demoted three-year assistant Dave Huxtable, the Tar Heels' defensive coordinator for the past two seasons, when Carolina was 108th and 116th in Division I-A in total defense.

Bunting, an All-ACC linebacker during his playing days at Carolina, played linebacker in the NFL and coached a variety of defensive positions in the pros. He also was co-defensive coordinator of the Rams during their 1999 Super Bowl season. Defense should be his field of expertise; however, barring tremendous improvement, it could be his downfall.



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SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	TSN pick
Sept. 4	William & Mary	W
Sept. 11	at Virginia	L
Sept. 18	Georgia Tech	L
Sept. 25	Louisville	W
Oct. 2	at Florida State	L
Oct. 9	N.C. State	L
Oct. 16	at Utah	L
Oct. 30	Miami	L
Nov. 6	Virginia Tech	L
Nov. 13	at Wake Forest	L
Nov. 20	at Duke	W

Strength of schedule rank
Conference: 4
Nation: 19

GAME OF THE YEAR

The Tar Heels once owned the Wolfpack, with seven straight victories between 1993-99. Since 2000, N.C. State has won three of four games between the teams, including a 47-34 victory last year in Raleigh. Wolfpack coach Chuck Amato arrived in Raleigh one year before Bunting got to Chapel Hill, and Amato's 34-17 record in four years only makes Bunting's 13-24 three-year mark look worse.

Four of the Tar Heels' first six games are at home, offering an opportunity to improve on last year's 0-5 start. Road games in that span will be at Virginia, where Carolina hasn't won since 1983, and Florida State, so it is crucial that Carolina take advantage of its home-field edge over William & Mary, Georgia Tech, Louisville and N.C. State. Then comes a difficult stretch—at Utah and home against ACC newcomers Miami and Virginia Tech. Although the season ends with two road games, they are at Wake Forest and Duke, the league's least hostile environments. By that time, Bunting might be fighting for his job.

COACHING

Strategies—To replace Huxtable, who left to become the defensive coordinator at Central Florida after his demotion, Bunting hired John Gutekunst from South Carolina and paired him with Marvin Sanders from Nebraska. Both coaches were without jobs, Gutekunst after being let go by longtime colleague Lou Holtz and Sanders after Nebraska coach Frank Solich was fired and successor Bill Callahan turned elsewhere in forming his staff.

Gutekunst, who will call the defenses, was the head coach at Minnesota for six seasons and comes to Chapel Hill with a wealth of experience, including stints at Duke and Virginia Tech. Sanders, who will be responsible for pass defense while Gutekunst monitors the running game, coached the Nebraska secondary last year and was instrumental in the Cornhuskers leading the nation in interceptions and finishing first in Division I-A in pass defense.

Well-traveled and highly respected offensive coordinator Gary Tranquill has not been a miracle worker since coming to Carolina from Virginia in 2001. At Virginia, Tranquill had a succession of 1,000-yard rushers, but that hasn't been the case since his arrival in Chapel Hill.

Style—Bunting has abandoned the Beatles-style mop he favored as a player for more of a Marine-worthy flat top, but he has the same passion for football that he demonstrated as a Carolina player from 1968-71. Unfortunately, he hasn't been able to transfer that fire to his players, although losing probably has played a major part in that. A lack of continuity also hasn't helped. Only four coaches remain from Bunting's first staff, and

More on North Carolina at foxsports.com/named/FS/CFB/teams

Lewis wears No. 20 because of Barry Sanders, but he finished with more yards on receptions than he did on rushes last season.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

The Tar Heels need a big senior season from Durant, arguably UNC's best quarterback ever.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

the defensive staff has changed completely since Bunting's first year, when Carolina was first in the ACC in total defense.

Desire can go a long way, but the Tar Heels haven't always played intelligently under Bunting. "In order to get this program turned around, I've got to win on a lot of fronts," says Bunting, referring to a need to keep supporters excited. "I'm also more focused on the discipline within the team. My tolerance threshold is low."

OFFENSE

Quarterbacks—No other quarterback in North Carolina football history has accomplished what Darian Durant has—he is the school's career leader in touchdown passes, completion percentage, passing yards, total offense and completions—but Durant never has been first- or second-team All-ACC. Durant was having an all-conference-caliber year in 2002 before suffering a broken thumb that caused him to miss four games, and the Tar Heels haven't been the same since, losing 15 of 18 games. Durant would have ranked among the Division I-A leaders in passing efficiency if he had played in enough games to qualify in 2002, but he was only sixth in the ACC in passing efficiency last year, when Jarwarski Pollock was his only proven wide receiver and Durant's yards per attempt dropped from 8.6 to 6.6.

Durant rushed for a career-high 396 yards and should surpass the 1,000-yard rushing

An ACC coach says...

They never got into any rhythm last year. Also, they're not quite as talented as they were under Mack Brown. Most of it's along the line of scrimmage. Youth had something to do with it. Part of it is recruiting. When Carl Torbush had a couple 6-5 seasons, they had some trouble getting players over the next two years. When he left and **John Bunting** came in, Bunting wasn't able to have a big first year recruiting. No first-year coach does. So, that's three below-average recruiting classes in a row. Are they headed in the right direction? Yes. But they need more talent. ... I think **Darian Durant** is a tough guy. He can run and pass and put pressure on a defense. He's just not very tall. But he could start for a lot of people without much trouble. He's at his best when he's on the move, and they have to tailor things around those abilities because he can't stay in the pocket. ... Offensive coordinator **Gary Tranquill** is an old-fashioned coach. But that's a good old-fashioned. He has some wrinkles in his attack, and his teams are going to try to beat you with technique. In the past, they were static in what they did on offense. They're more creative now. ... Their defense is hurting for talent. Even though Bunting and their defensive coordinators know what they're doing, they are at a disadvantage. I know middle linebacker **Doug Justice** made a lot of tackles as a freshman, but he doesn't run well, and teams can exploit that.

mark for his career, which is no small feat. Carolina is fortunate that Durant didn't follow through on plans to transfer after the 2001 season and must hope that he can stay healthy this year, although backup Matt Baker was 12 of 19 in limited duty in 2002. Baker and Roger Heinz got plenty of repetitions in the spring.

Running backs—Carolina, which once thought of itself as Tailback U., hasn't had a 1,000-yard rusher since Jonathan Linton gained 1,004 yards in 1997, and Linton is the Tar Heels' only 1,000-yard rusher since 1993. In fact, the Tar Heels had gone five seasons without a 600-yard rusher before freshman Ronnie McGill ran for 654 yards last season. McGill did not become a full-time starter until the sixth game of the season, and his average of 5.1 yards per carry was the same as the ACC's top two rushers, Georgia Tech's P.J. Daniels and Wake Forest's Chris Barclay.

McGill, who carried 29 times for 244 yards and three touchdowns against Wake Forest, will get ample support from senior Jacque Lewis. Lewis averaged 6.1 yards per carry and ranked second on the team in receptions with 34, five for touchdowns. Chad Scott, who began his career at Kentucky, also is in the mix.

After two seasons at fullback, 6-1, 260-pound Madison Hedgecock started at defensive end in 2003. He will be back at fullback this season, and he has NFL potential, according to Bunting.

Receivers—Pollock was the ultimate possession receiver in 2003, when he had a school-record 71 receptions, only one for a touchdown. However, that might be slightly misleading because Pollock caught four touchdown passes in 2002, when he had 31 receptions. Pollock (5-8, 170) is small, but Carolina has a couple of giants at the other receiver spot, 6-3 Derrele Mitchell and 6-4 Adarius Bowman. Mitchell and Bowman had only 27 receptions combined last season. Pollock is backed up by 6-foot burner Mike Mason, and the Tar Heels soon will have to find time for Jesse Holley, who spent the winter of 2004 with the Carolina basketball team.

Tight end Jon Hamlett got enough playing time as a freshman to convince the Tar Heels that there will not be a tremendous drop-off with the departure of Bobby Blizzard. Scott Brumett, one of two East Tennessee State players to transfer to Carolina, is projected as a tight end after starting at linebacker for three seasons at ETSU. One-time prized prospect Jocques Dumas (6-6, 266) has requested a move from defensive end to tight end in hopes of resurrecting his career.

Line—At least part of the reason for Carolina's recent inability to run the ball has been its failure to develop a big-time offensive line. Guard Jeb Terry, a senior in 2003, was a second-team All-ACC selection and was the only UNC offensive lineman to make the first team, second team or honorable mention.

Center Jason Brown, entering his third year as starter, did not allow a sack last season and joins left tackle Willie McNeill and

NICKEL PACKAGE

Five things to look for

1 The Tar Heels must rediscover their pass rush. They had 16 sacks in 2003—20 fewer than ACC-leading Florida State. Inability to pressure the quarterback contributed to Carolina's 111th-place ranking in pass defense.

2 The fact Carolina's top two tacklers were safeties had a lot to do with a 113th-place finish in rushing defense. Is it too much to ask for a linebacker to step up and make 100 tackles?

3 Stretching the field with a vertical passing game is vital. Opponents don't lie awake at night worrying about 8-yard passes to Jarwarski Pollock.

4 John Bunting must follow through on his vow of "a low tolerance threshold." Sometimes, it's possible to be too much of a players coach.

5 Carolina must force more turnovers. In a conference in which no other team had a negative turnover margin, Carolina forced just 10 in 12 games.

QUICK HITS

COACHING STAFF

Head coach: John Bunting (13-24, 3 years)
Offensive coordinator/quarterbacks: Gary Tranquill (4th year)
Co-defensive coordinator/linebackers: John Gutekunst (1st year)
Co-defensive coordinator/defensive backs: Marvin Sanders (1st year)
Wide receivers: Gunter Brewer (5 years)
Tight ends: Ken Browning (11th year)
Strength and conditioning: Jeff Connors (4th year)
Offensive line: Hal Hunter (3rd year)
Defensive line/recruiting coordinator: Brad Lawing (2nd year)
Running backs: Andre' Powell (4th year)
Assistant head coach/special teams: James Webster (2nd year, 4th overall)

FORMATIONS AND FIGURES

Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: Multiple
Last league title won: 1980
Last bowl appearance: 2001
2003 TSN preseason rank: 40
2003 record: 2-10; ACC: 1-7/9th
Website: www.tarheelblue.com

Stadium: Kenan (grass, 60,000)
Site: Chapel Hill, N.C.
Tickets: 800-722-4335

NORTH CAROLINA SPORTS INFORMATION

RECRUITING

2004 CLASS

RATINGS BY RIVALS.COM

NAME	POS.	HT./WT.	HOMETOWN/SCHOOL
★★★★★ AMONG THE NATION'S TOP 30 PROSPECTS			
None			
★★★★ AMONG THE NATION'S TOP 200 PROSPECTS			
Calvin Darity	OL	6-4/275	Tallahassee, Fla./Lincoln
Trimane Goddard	CB	5-11/185	Robersonville, N.C./Roanoke
Marcus Hands	DL	6-5/245	Wilmington, N.C./Hargrave Military Academy (Va.)
★★★ AMONG THE NATION'S TOP 600 PROSPECTS			
Kentwan Balmer	DL	6-5/250	Weldon, N.C./Weldon
Byron Bishop	OL	6-3/295	Union, S.C./Union
Brooks Foster	WR	6-2/190	Boiling Springs, S.C./Boiling Springs
Stephen Green	DB	6-0/185	Little Rock, Ark./Pulaski Academy
Terry Hunter	DL	6-4/270	Wendell, N.C./Hargrave Military Academy (Va.)
Thomas Nyaoga	OL	6-5/290	Arlington, Texas/Summit
Del Roberts	WR	5-8/170	Tallahassee, Fla./Godby
Hilee Taylor	LB/DE	6-3/215	Laurinburg, N.C./Scotland County
Martel Thatch	S	6-2/180	Greensboro, N.C./Dudley
★★ SOLID DIVISION I PROSPECT			
Connor Barth	K	6-1/175	Wilmington, N.C./Hoggard
Antwain Carey	RB	6-0/205	Chesapeake, Va./Deep Creek
Wyatt Hicks	OL	6-6/250	Highland Springs, Va./Highland Springs
Ben Lemming	OL	6-5/270	Houston/Strake Jesuit
Khalif Mitchell	DE	6-6/300	Virginia Beach, Va./Hargrave Military Aca. (Va.)
Willie Phelps	DB	5-11/185	Sarasota, Fla./Booker
Cori Powell	FB/LB	6-2/225	Charlotte/Providence Day
Kenny Price	DL	6-4/280	Virginia Beach, Va./Hargrave Military Aca. (Va.)
Chase Rice	LB	6-3/215	Asheville, N.C./Reynolds
Michael Rozier	QB	6-5/210	Stockbridge, Ga./Henry County

INSIDE DISH

Calvin Darity is the marquee player. Rivals.com ranked him as the nation's No. 1 guard last season because he dominated foes at Lincoln High in Tallahassee, Fla., one of the state's premier programs. The signing of Darity was a big reason the Tar Heels secured the nation's 36th-best recruiting harvest. Florida State, LSU, Nebraska and Tennessee also coveted Darity. During Darity's visit to North Carolina, coaches talked to him about the school's tradition of producing standout running backs and powerful rushing attacks. … Darity was one of three four-star prospects North Carolina signed. The others are defensive back **Trimane Goddard** of Robersonville, N.C., and defensive lineman **Marcus Hands** of Hargrave (Va.) Military Academy. Goddard, rated as the nation's No. 10 cornerback, also considered Florida State, Tennessee and Virginia. … Defensive end **Khalif Mitchell** of Hargrave (Va.) Military Academy enrolled in January and is expected to start. … Defensive back **Stephen Green** arrives from Little Rock, Ark., after turning down Iowa, Missouri and Nebraska. North Carolina coach **John Bunting** said Green might have been the best player in Arkansas. … **Martel Thatch** of Greensboro, N.C., also will bring help to the secondary after being rated as the nation's No. 15 safety last year. Clemson, Duke, Florida, Miami, South Carolina and Virginia also made offers to Thatch. … Coaches were upset about failing to sign any of the state's top five running backs. And seeing stud in-state defensive tackle DeMario Pressley sign with N.C. State really stung. Still, the Tar Heels did a good job improving both lines. *—Rivals.com*

right tackle Skip Seagraves as senior starters. Charlston Gray finished the spring as the starter at right guard with Steven Bell operating behind Brown for a second straight year.

Kyle Ralph, who played nearly 40 snaps per game last year as the understudy to senior Jupiter Wilson, will start at left guard. Depth will be a concern.

DEFENSE

Line—Carolina's defense hasn't been the same since the departure of defensive end Julius Peppers, who passed up his final season of eligibility after a 2001 season in which he won the Lombardi Award as the nation's top lineman and the Bednarik Award as the defensive player of the year. In the two seasons since Peppers had 9½ sacks in 2001 (he had 15 in 2000), no Carolina player has had more than the four sacks that Alden Blizzard registered in 2003. Blizzard ranked 22nd on the team in tackles last year, when he started only two games.

The leading tackler among Carolina's defensive linemen was Chase Page, a one-time tight end and guard who was seventh overall with 47 stops. Only Page started all 12 games among the Tar Heels' returning defensive starters. In fact, Carolina has started a different defensive lineup in 23 of its past 24 games. Page moved from tackle to end at the start of last season but is returning to tackle to team with Isaiah Thomas.

Blizzard and Tommy Davis entered the spring as the top starting candidates among the returning defensive ends, but 2003 recruits Khalif Mitchell and Terry Hunter were impressive after spending last fall at Hargrave Military Academy. Bunting's comment on Mitchell after the first day of spring practice: "He's a natural." By the end of spring, he was a starter.

Linebackers—In his first year at Carolina, Bunting saw former walk-on David Thornton become a first-team All-ACC linebacker and a fourth-round NFL draft pick. Maybe that was enough good fortune for three years, although the Tar Heels might have a future star in Larry Edwards, whose 88 tackles last season ranked third on the team behind safeties Dexter Reid and Mahlon Carey.

Candidates to join Edwards in the starting lineup are junior Doug Justice and sophomore Fred Sparkman in the middle and senior Jeff Longhany, who started the last four games of 2003 on the outside. Longhany led the team in tackles for loss with 6½. Sophomores Melik Brown and Victor Worsley also will push for time. This unit could thrive under Gutekunst, who has been a college coach for 35 years.

Secondary—Less than two months after completing his third year as a starter at Division I-AA East Tennessee State, Gerald Sensabaugh was enrolled at North Carolina, where he will have instant eligibility as the result of ETSU's decision to drop football. Sensabaugh was an All-Southern Conference selection and third-team All-American as a junior, when he had 74 tackles and eight pass

At 5-8, 170, Pollock doesn't look imposing, but last year he caught more than twice as many passes as any other Tar Heel.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

TAR HEELS ROSTER

NO.	NAME	HT./WT.	CL.	EXP.	HOMETOWN/PREVIOUS SCHOOL
			QUARTERBACKS		
7	Matt Baker	6-2/209	Jr.	2L	Rochester Hills, Mich./Brother Rice
4	Darian Durant	5-11/217	Sr.	3L	Florence, S.C./Wilson
16	Jared Hall	6-2/197	Sr.	SQ	Winston-Salem, N.C./Ledford
8	Roger Heinz	6-1/192	Fr.	RS	Tallahassee, Fla./North Florida Christian Academy
			RUNNING BACKS		
40	Rikki Cook (FB)	6-0/260	Jr.	1L	Montclair, N.J./Rutgers
36	James Gibson (FB)	6-2/253	Sr.	2L	Alexandria, Va./T.C. Williams
44	Madison Hedgecock (FB)	6-3/260	Sr.	3L	Wallburg, N.C./Ledford
20	Jacque Lewis	5-10/190	Sr.	3L	Elizabeth City, N.C./Northeastern
25	Ronnie McGill	5-11/206	So.	1L	Clover, S.C./Clover
6	Chad Scott	5-9/196	Sr.	1L	Plant City, Fla./Kentucky
			RECEIVERS/TIGHT ENDS		
11	Adarius Bowman	6-4/217	So.	1L	Chattanooga, Tenn./Notre Dame High
87	Scott Brumett (TE)	6-2/255	Sr.	SQ	Pioneer, Tenn./East Tennessee State
83	Lewis Burnham (TE)	6-4/247	So.	SQ	Moorestown, N.J/ Moorestown
12	Chris Curry	6-1/191	Sr.	1L	Fayetteville, N.C./E.E. Smith
43	Jocques Dumas (TE)	6-6/266	Sr.	3L	Asheboro, N.C./Asheboro
93	John Dunn (TE)	6-5/260	Sr.	SQ	Hendersonville, N.C./West Henderson
3	Daunte Fields	6-0/172	So.	SQ	Wellington, Fla./Cardinal Newman
86	Jon Hamlett (TE)	6-5/247	So.	1L	Lynchburg, Va./Jefferson Forest
9	Jesse Holley	6-3/190	So.	1L	Roselle, N.J./Abraham Clark
2	Mike Mason	6-0/189	So.	1L	Rocky Mount, N.C./Rocky Mount
1	Derrele Mitchell	6-3/212	Jr.	2L	Winston-Salem, N.C./Hargrave Military Academy
95	Justin Phillips (TE)	6-4/228	Jr.	1L	Pittsboro, N.C./Fork Union Military Academy
5	Jarwarski Pollock	5-8/170	Sr.	2L	Bradenton, Fla./Southeast
15	Rashaad Tindall	6-3/197	So.	1L	Wilmington, N.C./Laney
29	Wallace Wright	6-0/187	Jr.	2L	Fayetteville, N.C./Pine Forest
			OFFENSIVE LINEMEN		
70	Steven Bell (C/G)	6-3/285	Jr.	2L	Greensboro, N.C./Page
72	Jason Brown (C)	6-3/328	Sr.	3L	Henderson, N.C./Northern Vance
65	Brian Chacos (T)	6-4/297	Jr.	1L	Darien, Conn./Darien
77	Charlston Gray (G)	6-3/299	Fr.	RS	Fort Worth, Texas/Dunbar
71	Kendall High (T)	6-4/272	So.	SQ	Salisbury, N.C./West Rowan
73	Drew Hunter (T)	6-7/305	Jr.	SQ	Garner, N.C./Ravenscroft
64	Scott Lenahan (C)	6-1/296	Fr.	RS	Marietta, Ga./Harrison
76	Willie McNeill (T)	6-5/291	Sr.	3L	Wagram, N.C./Scotland County
78	Kyle Ralph (G)	6-4/293	Jr.	2L	Cincinnati/St. Xavier
75	Skip Seagraves (T)	6-5/280	Sr.	3L	Burlington, N.C./Williams
60	Arthur Smith (G)	6-4/273	Jr.	SQ	Memphis/Georgetown Prep
68	Chris Woods (T)	6-3/304	So.	SQ	Columbia, S.C./Irmo
			DEFENSIVE LINEMEN		
41	Alden Blizzard (E)	6-3/257	So.	SQ	Laurel, Md./Laurel
75	Shelton Bynum (T)	6-5/300	So.	1L	Ellenwood, Ga./Cedar Grove
80	Tommy Davis (E)	6-2/256	Jr.	2L	Dudley, N.C./Southern Wayne
74	Kyndraus Guy (E)	6-2/256	Fr.	RS	Hope Mills, N.C. South View
66	Donnell Livingston (T)	6-3/296	Fr.	RS	Sarasota, Fla./Sarasota
95	Chase Page (T)	6-5/288	Sr.	3L	Mt. Pleasant, S.C./Summerville
42	Brian Rackley (E)	6-5/249	So.	SQ	Tallahassee, Fla./Lawton Chiles
49	Xavier Rainey (E)	6-3/257	So.	SQ	Stone Mountain, Ga./Southwest DeKalb
69	Jonas Seawright (T)	6-6/335	Sr.	2L	Orangeburg, S.C./Orangeburg Wilkinson
96	Isaiah Thomas (T)	6-4/318	So.	1L	Winston-Salem, N.C./Carver
			LINEBACKERS		
58	Melik Brown	6-1/253	So.	1L	Camden, N.J./Hargrave Military Academy
32	Larry Edwards	6-3/232	So.	1L	Tampa/Wharton
15	Tyson Graham	6-1/221	Fr.	RS	Gastonia, N.C. North Gaston
53	Doug Justice	6-2/246	Jr.	2L	Port Orange, Fla./Spruce Creek
55	Joe Kedra	6-4/238	So.	1L	Maple Shade, N.J./Camden Catholic
52	Jeff Longhany	6-3/256	Jr.	2L	Wade, N.C./Cape Fear
30	Fred Sparkman	6-2/242	So.	1L	Columbia, Tenn./Central Columbia
54	Victor Worsley	6-1/237	So.	1L	Battleboro, N.C./North Edgecombe
			DEFENSIVE BACKS		
35	Bryan Bethea (CB)	5-10/178	Fr.	RS	Fayetteville, N.C./Douglas Byrd
3	Ronnie Bryant (S)	6-0/210	Jr.	1L	Durham, N.C./Riverside
23	Mahlon Carey (S)	6-1/216	Jr.	2L	Marietta, Ga./South Cobb
1	Lionell Green (CB)	6-1/180	Sr.	1L	Wharton, Texas/Reedley CC
13	Cedrick Holt (CB)	5-11/184	Jr.	2L	Wadesboro, N.C./Anson County
20	Tom O'Leary	6-1/204	Jr.	1L	Waxhaw, N.C./Parkwood
10	Quinton Person (CB)	5-11/177	Fr.	RS	Greenville, N.C./North Pitt
8	Tommy Richardson	6-1/223	Jr.	2L	Miami/North Miami Beach
14	Gerald Sensabaugh (S)	6-2/210	Sr.	SQ	Kingsport, Tenn./East Tennessee State
27	Kareen Taylor (CB)	6-0/195	So.	1L	Hopewell, Va./Fork Union Military Academy
28	D.J. Walker (S)	6-0/175	So.	1L	Pisgah Forest, N.C./Brevard
16	Jacoby Watkins (CB)	6-0/170	So.	1L	Laurinburg, N.C./Scotland
11	Linwood Williams	6-0/186	Jr.	1L	Elizabeth City, N.C./Northeastern
			SPECIALISTS		
17	John Choate (P)	6-2/185	Fr.	RS	Charlotte/Charlotte Country Day
61	Warren Green (DS)	6-2/224	Jr.	SQ	Dunn, N.C./Triton
48	Heath Martin (P/K)	5-10/184	So.	SQ	Greensboro, N.C./Grimsley
56	Greg Warren (DS)	6-3/240	Sr.	3L	Mt. Olive, N.C./Southern Wayne
45	David Wooldridge (P/K)	6-1/190	So.	1L	Advance, N.C./Davie

breakups as a free safety. Sensabaugh enters his final season with 186 career tackles, 15 for loss, and should provide a key element for a secondary makeover.

Sensabaugh finished the spring as the starting strong safety ahead of Carey, whose 96 tackles rank first among Carolina players who will return this year. D.J. Walker figures to start at free safety with Kareen Taylor pushing for time.

A broken ankle caused promising cornerback Cedrick Holt to miss the last eight games of the 2003 season, and there is question whether he will be 100 percent to start the fall. Lionell Green took Holt's place in the starting lineup and finished the spring No. 1 at the spot opposite Jacoby Watkins, who is seeking to replace highly touted Michael Waddell.

Waddell's performance failed to match the reputation as an all-world cover corner that he brought with him to North Carolina, and he even lost his job for a while last season. Incredibly, Carolina intercepted only two passes—both by Carey. No other ACC team intercepted fewer than 11 passes. No wonder Sanders' coaching resume was so attractive to Bunting.

SPECIAL TEAMS

One-time Michigan State transfer Dan Orner completed his eligibility, and the Tar Heels came out of the spring without a scholarship kicker on their roster. There was no great cause for concern because of the anticipated arrival of Connor Barth, who converted 20 of 21 field goals in his senior year at Hoggard High School in Wilmington, N.C., and set a state record with 38 field goals in his career. He was successful from 51 and 53 yards as a senior.

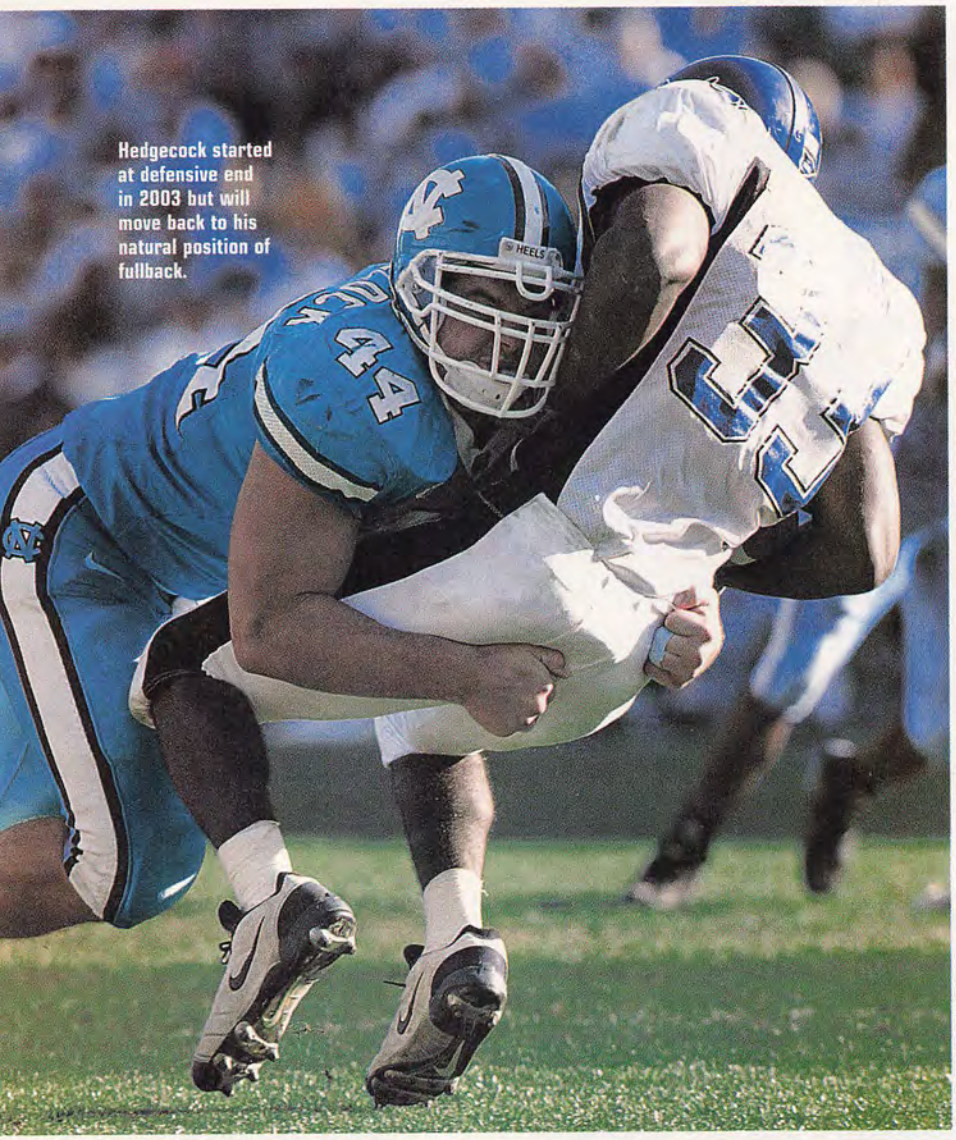
David Wooldridge averaged 45.1 yards on 27 punts last year after taking the job from John Lafferty at midseason. With two more attempts, Wooldridge would have finished second in the ACC in punting average.

Waddell averaged 31.7 yards on 15 kickoff returns and ranked first in Division I-A, but Mason actually was Carolina's primary kickoff returner. He averaged 26.0 yards on 25 returns, good for third in the ACC. Mason, who had a 96-yard kickoff return for a touchdown, could compete with Pollock for punt-return duties.

BOTTOM LINE

There is no reason that Carolina shouldn't be good every year, and Bunting knows it. With its academic reputation and beautiful campus, the school recruits itself. As recently as 1996-97, Carolina won 10 and 11 games under Brown. Bunting knows he needs to win six or seven games to save his job. Six wins would mean a winning season, but in the newly reconfigured, 11-team ACC, that probably won't get the Tar Heels a bowl bid. **TSN**

Doug Doughty covers ACC football for the Roanoke (Va.) Times.



Hedgecock started at defensive end in 2003 but will move back to his natural position of fullback.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

2003 RESULTS

Florida State	L, 37-0
Syracuse	L, 49-47 (3OT)
at Wisconsin	L, 38-27
at N.C. State	L, 47-34
Virginia	L, 38-13
at East Carolina	W, 28-17
Arizona State	L, 33-31
at Clemson	L, 36-28
at Maryland	L, 59-21
Wake Forest	W, 42-34
at Georgia Tech	L, 41-24
Duke	L, 30-22

STATISTICAL LEADERS

Rushing	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Ronnie McGill	**128**	**654**	**5.1**	**7**
Darian Durant	**91**	**396**	**4.4**	**6**
Jacque Lewis	**61**	**374**	**6.1**	**1**
Chad Scott	**39**	**182**	**4.7**	**3**
Willie Parker	48	181	3.8	0

Passing	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Int.
Darian Durant	**389**	**234**	**60.2**	**2,551**	**18**	**10**
Matt Baker	**19**	**12**	**63.2**	**166**	**1**	**1**
C.J. Stephens	18	11	61.1	186	1	0

Receiving	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Jarwarski Pollock	**71**	**745**	**10.5**	**1**
Jacque Lewis	**34**	**391**	**11.5**	**5**
Mike Mason	**22**	**313**	**14.2**	**3**

Kicking	XPM	XPA	FGM	FGA	Pts.
Dan Orner	35	35	12	16	71

Tackles	Solo	Assists	Total	TFL/Yds.
Dexter Reid	95	37	132	3.5/-9
Mahlon Carey	**61**	**35**	**96**	**1.0/-1**
Larry Edwards	**55**	**33**	**88**	**5.5/-19**
Lionell Green	**53**	**12**	**65**	—

SACKS: Alden Blizzard (4.0)
INTERCEPTIONS: Carey (2)

Returning players in bold

Team	Avg.	Rank
Rushing offense:	150.4	5th ACC/61st nation
Rushing defense:	227.0	9th/113th
Passing offense:	243.9	5th/39th
Passing defense:	278.2	7th/111th
Total offense:	394.3	5th/43rd
Total defense:	505.2	9th/116th
Turnover margin:	-1.25	9th/111th

KEY LOSSES

Offense

TE Bobby Blizzard (20 rec.,161 yards, 1 TD); K Dan Orner (12-of-16 FGs, 71 pts.); G Jeb Terry; G Jupiter Wilson.

Defense

LB Devllen Bullard (45 tackles); FS Dexter Reid (team-high 132 tackles, 3.5 tackles for loss); CB Michael Waddell (18 tackles).

THREE ON THE RISE

WR Adarius Bowman. He was the most highly touted of three wide receivers signed by the Tar Heels in 2003 and displayed his potential as a true freshman with 10 catches for 181 yards and two touchdowns. His speed was evident on a 76-yard touchdown pass from Matt Baker late in the Tar Heels' loss to N.C. State.

TE Jon Hamlett. The Tar Heels had hoped to make Hamlett a redshirt last year, but he was pressed into service as a true freshman because of injuries to regular Bobby Blizzard. Hamlett demonstrated good hands with 11 receptions for 115 yards and has the size to be a strong blocker.

G Kyle Ralph. He started five games on an injury-depleted offensive line as a true freshman in 2002 before losing his starting spot to Jupiter Wilson last preseason. All along, North Carolina had him penciled in as a starter this season and next.

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

Offense		Defense	
WR	Derrele Mitchell*	**LE**	Khalif Mitchell
	Adarius Bowman		Alden Blizzard
LT	Willie McNeill*	**T**	Isaiah Thomas
	Chris Woods		Jonas Seawright*
LG	Kyle Ralph	**T**	Chase Page*
	Arthur Smith		Shelton Bynum
C	Jason Brown*	**RE**	Tommy Davis*
	Steven Bell		Brian Rackley
RG	Charlston Gray	**SLB**	Jeff Longhany
	Scott Lenahan		Tommy Richardson
RT	Skip Seagraves*	**MLB**	Fred Sparkman
	Chris Woods		Doug Justice
TE	Jon Hamlett	**WLB**	Larry Edwards*
	Lewis Burnham		Joe Kedra
WR	Jarwarski Pollock*	**LCB**	Lionell Green*
	Mike Mason		Quinton Person
QB	Darian Durant*	**SS**	Gerald Sensabaugh
	Matt Baker		Mahlon Carey
RB	Ronnie McGill*	**FS**	D.J. Walker
	Jacque Lewis*		Kareen Taylor
FB	Madison Hedgecock	**RCB**	Jacoby Watkins
	Rikki Cook		Bryan Bethea
K	Heath Martin	**P**	David Wooldridge
KR	Mike Mason*	**PR**	Jarwarski Pollock

* Returning starter

DUKE BLUE DEVILS

Projected finish: 2-9 0-8/11th in conference

By Ken Tysiac

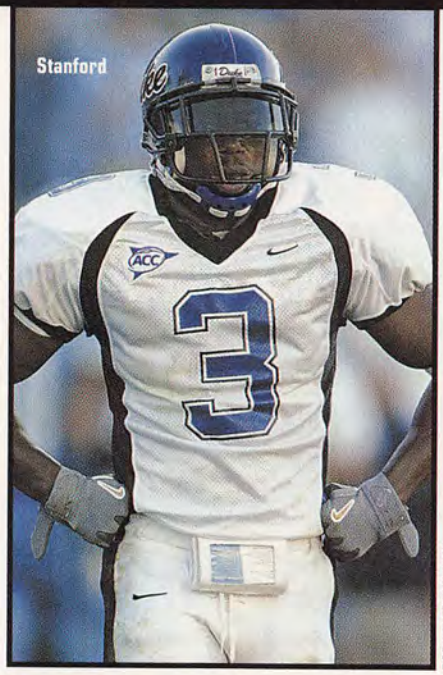
A stroll through the Yoh Football Center leaves the impression that Duke doesn't have to be a doormat in the ACC forever. The $22 million facility has a stunning memorabilia room, plush locker rooms, a spacious weight room and a state-of-the-art training room. Wallace Wade Stadium, where Duke plays its home games, still needs work, but aside from that, Blue Devils football players enjoy fantastic amenities.

Athletics director Joe Alleva is ready for Duke's program to begin reflecting the quality of that investment. Fed up with a lack of progress, Alleva fired coach Carl Franks after a 42-13 loss to Wake Forest in the middle of last season.

A few weeks later, Duke's players celebrated on the field after ending the Blue Devils' 30-game losing streak in ACC games with a 41-17 defeat of Georgia Tech. By winning their season finale at North Carolina, the Blue Devils pulled themselves out of last place in the ACC.

Interim coach Ted Roof, who engineered those victories, was invited to stay. The Blue Devils begin the season with four offensive line starters gone from 2003. But Roof has instilled pride and hope after a 4-8 record last season, and he has assembled a proven, veteran coaching staff in the offseason.

Duke fans might not be ready to embrace football, but they would be happy if it became worth their attention in the fall as they wait for basketball season to begin. Roof caught their eye in 2003, and he has a chance to build on that success in 2004.



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SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	TSN pick
Sept. 4	at Navy	W
Sept. 11	at Connecticut	L
Sept. 18	at Virginia Tech	L
Sept. 25	Maryland	L
Oct. 2	The Citadel	W
Oct. 16	at Georgia Tech	L
Oct. 23	Virginia	L
Oct. 30	at Wake Forest	L
Nov. 6	at Florida State	L
Nov. 13	Clemson	L
Nov. 20	North Carolina	L

Strength of schedule rank
Conference: 10
Nation: 66

GAME OF THE YEAR

Last season, the Blue Devils broke a 13-game losing streak in the series with a 30-22 victory at Chapel Hill. Now Duke has a chance to build a winning streak at home. If the Blue Devils pull a couple of surprises earlier, they might be in position to qualify for a bowl with a victory over the Tar Heels. North Carolina might be in a similar position—if not, another loss to the Blue Devils could send John Bunting packing.

ACC expansion doesn't create quite as much of a challenge for the Blue Devils as it does for other schools. Duke doesn't play Miami and has dropped N.C. State and added Virginia Tech, so its schedule isn't more difficult than it was before. Outside the conference, Duke has placed an emphasis on playing opponents with academic restrictions comparable to its own. That places the Blue Devils in games against Navy, Connecticut and The Citadel—all games they are capable of winning. Duke starts off with three road games and needs to be at least 2-1 when it plays Maryland in the home opener.

COACHING

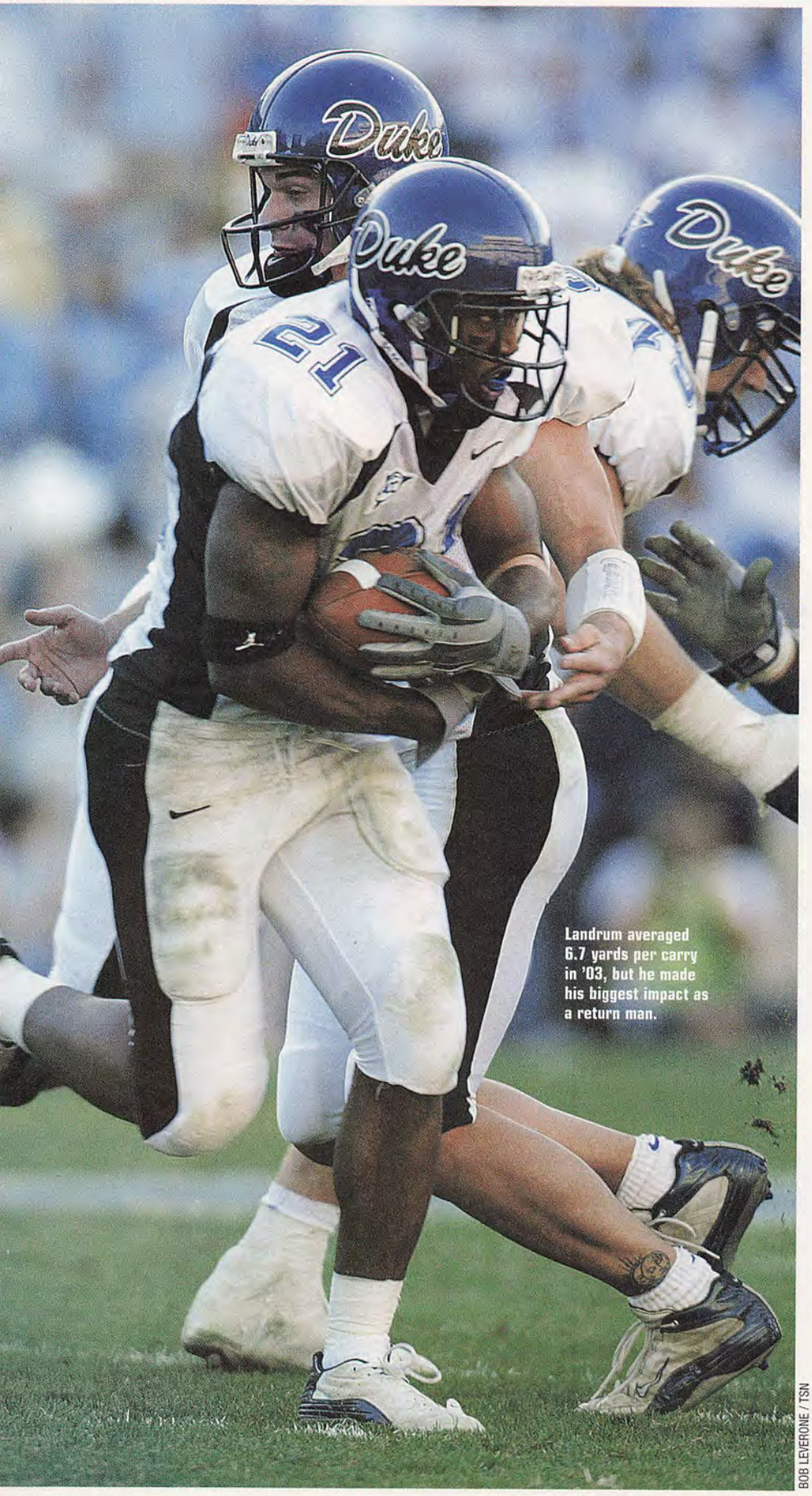
Strategies—Roof wants to run some spread formations and make opponents defend the entire field, but he won't throw the ball 60 times a game. He wants the Blue Devils to have balance on offense, and coordinator Marty Galbraith will accomplish that with schemes similar to what he used at N.C. State with Philip Rivers. Duke will use multiple formations and will attempt to take advantage of its players' intellect with frequent shifting. The Blue Devils also will run some option, particularly while quarterbacks Chris Dapolito and Curt Dukes are in the game. Roof wasn't afraid to rotate quarterbacks last season, and it wouldn't surprise anybody if he does it again.

On defense, Duke will play an attacking style. Roof was fortunate to lure Jerry Azzinaro from Syracuse to be a co-coordinator with Scott Brown—they will use a 4-3 scheme that will emphasize pressure up front.

More on Duke at foxsports.com/named/FS/CFB/teams

Schneider broke a thumb during the spring but still is expected to be the Blue Devils' starter.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN



Landrum averaged 6.7 yards per carry in '03, but he made his biggest impact as a return man.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Style—Roof earned the Duke job by going 2-3 last season as interim coach after replacing Franks. Alleva was disappointed with the team's lack of competitive fire under Franks. With Roof, he got a guy whose passion and emotions are obvious. Roof has dreamed of being an ACC head coach since he was 17 years old, and his most pressing task was to build a staff that would share his passion for coaching at Duke. Many of the coaches on his staff left good jobs to join him. He hired Azzinaro away from Syracuse. Associate head coach David Spencer left the same position at Stanford, and assistant head coach David Kelly came to Duke from Georgia Tech.

Tom Knotts, a Duke alumnus, left Independence High School in Charlotte, where he developed Florida quarterback Chris Leak into the nation's top high school senior in 2002. Knotts will be an asset in recruiting and has demonstrated that he knows how to develop good quarterbacks.

OFFENSE

Quarterbacks—Mike Schneider started eight games as a redshirt freshman last season and steadily is improving. He completed just 46.6 percent of his passes and threw more interceptions (six) than touchdown passes (four), but he's 6-3 with a strong arm and should fit well into Galbraith's system.

Although Schneider missed much of

An ACC coach says...

Even though they didn't have the greatest season last year, I'm impressed by them. I think **Ted Roof** will do a good job. They're going to get better. They got better two years ago, when he showed up as defensive coordinator. They certainly got tougher. He's going to give them hope. What he did with the defense last year is phenomenal. They won two conference games and beat Georgia Tech. If it can be done there, Ted can get it done. He's going to bring intensity to them. They're going to be tough mentally, and Duke hasn't been tough in the past. ... They gave him the resources to put together a good staff. Now, they need to schedule right, so he can win some games before the conference. ... They're a little bit like Clemson on offense. They like to spread it out and stretch you vertically. They'll also boot you and misdirect you. And they'll run every kind of crossing pattern at you that's possible. ... Quarterback **Mike Schneider** is tough. He threw the ball around a little too much last year, but you get that with youth. ... They have more talent on defense than they do on offense, especially linebacker **Brendan Dewan**. He's light, but he can run. They don't have a lot of depth on defense, and that hurts you as the season goes on. ... They like to run odd-man fronts at you. They'll use fire zone, but Ted wants them attacking and running to the ball. He wants nasty kids.

spring practice with a broken thumb, he will be the starter in the fall. But that doesn't mean the others won't play. Dapolito, a senior, is popular with his teammates, has good leadership skills and was 30-of-54 passing in six games last season. Dukes, a sophomore, is a transfer from Nebraska with great speed who could keep opponents off-balance running the option.

In a conference in which several schools are breaking in new quarterbacks, Duke's greatest asset is depth. The Blue Devils can win with any of these three guys running the offense. And Knotts is an excellent teacher who should make each of them better.

Running backs—There are significant losses to overcome here. Tailback Chris Douglas left as the school's all-time leading rusher and was a first-team All-ACC selection last season, when he rushed for 1,138 yards. Fullback Alex Wade struggled with injuries last season but was second-team All-ACC in 2002. He, too, is gone.

The heaviest burden will fall on Cedric Dargan, a junior who quietly made his presence felt last season as a backup. At 6-0 and 200 pounds, Dargan has neither the power of Wade nor the breakaway ability of Douglas. But he still ranked second on the team in rushing with 264 yards last season and made progress after Roof was named coach. Dargan rushed for 169 yards over the final five games, including 54 at Tennessee as the Blue Devils kept the score close until the fourth quarter.

The Blue Devils don't have much depth behind Dargan, so keeping him healthy will be a priority, especially after he suffered a season-ending ankle injury as a freshman. Sophomore Aaron Fryer is the backup. Fryer was a highly regarded recruit out of Tampa but played sparingly as a freshman. Sophomore fullback Mike Dowling has played only sparingly in his career at Duke.

Receivers—Duke has talent at the position, but you wouldn't know it by the numbers. Reggie Love, a senior last season, led the team with 27 receptions for 290 yards.

Two key seniors return. Lance Johnson has excellent hands and ranked second on the team last season with 23 catches. Senterrio Landrum is one of the best all-around athletes in the ACC. He plays outfield for Duke's baseball team and is one of the top return men in the ACC. If the Blue Devils can just find ways to get him the ball, he can be a breakaway threat. Other options are junior Ronnie Elliott and sophomore Deon Adams.

There is no shortage of talent at tight end with junior Andy Roland, senior Calen Powell and sophomore Ben Patrick, a *Sporting News* third-team freshman All-American. Each will be an important part of the passing game.

Line—This is the team's greatest question mark. Senior right tackle Christian Mitchell is the lone returning starter. Jim

NICKEL PACKAGE

Five things to look for

1 A sack attack. With a talented, experienced secondary and a marquee defensive end in Phillip Alexander, Duke will put pressure on quarterbacks.

2 Road worries. Duke plays six road games and five home games. To compete in the ACC, the Blue Devils need at least six home games.

3 Don Yanowsky's transition from outside linebackers/special teams coach to offensive line coach. With just one returning starter, he soon might want his old job back.

4 The visit to Georgia Tech. Blue Devils coach Ted Roof handed his alma mater a 41-17 loss last season. Don't be surprised if he gets his players up for another upset.

5 Lethargy at Wallace Wade. Opponents play poorly in the dead atmosphere of Duke's home field, and the Devils will take advantage of that.

QUICK HITS

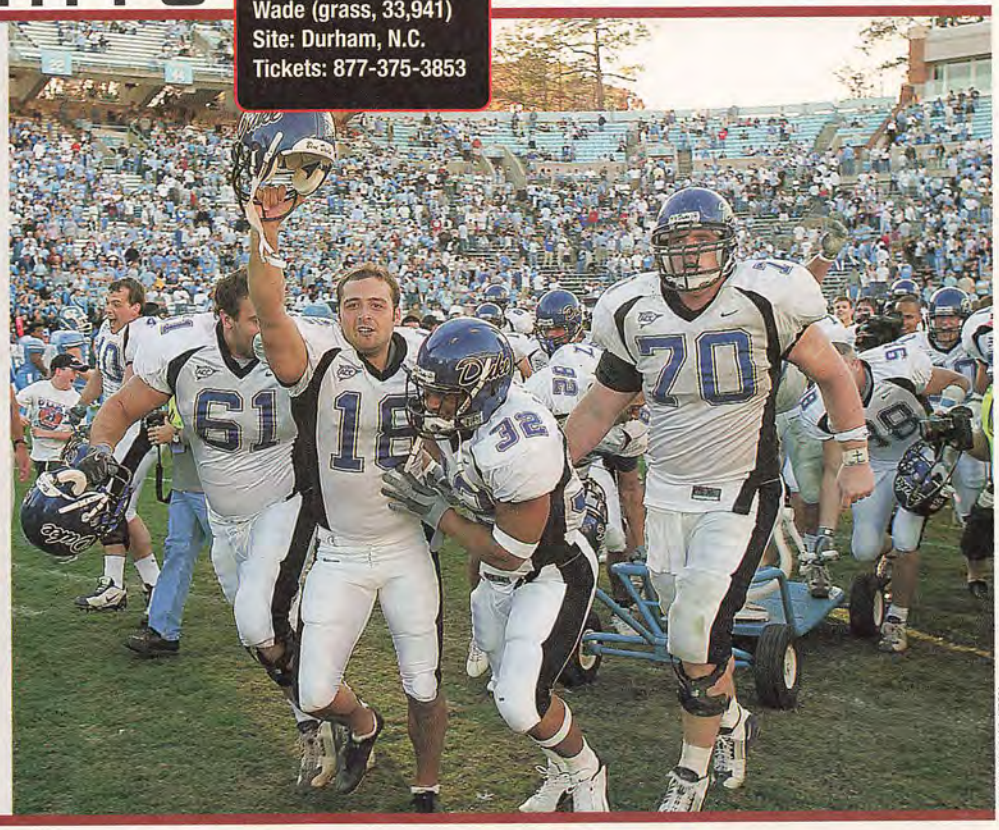
Stadium: Wallace Wade (grass, 33,941)
Site: Durham, N.C.
Tickets: 877-375-3853

COACHING STAFF

Head coach: Ted Roof (1st full year)
Associate head coach/wide receivers: David Kelly (1st year)
Assistant head coach/recruiting coordinator/defensive backs: Glenn Spencer (1st year)
Offensive coordinator/tight ends: Marty Galbraith (1st year)
Co-defensive coordinator: Jerry Azzinaro (1st year)
Co-defensive coordinator/defensive line: Scott Brown (8th year)
Running backs/special teams: Fred Chatham (14th year, 15th overall)
Quarterbacks: Tom Knotts (1st year)
Linebackers: Brad Sherrod (1st year)
Offensive line: Don Yanowksy (1st year)

FORMATIONS AND FIGURES

Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: Multiple
Last league title won: 1989 (tie)
Last bowl appearance: 1995
2003 TSN preseason rank: 76
2003 record: 4-8; ACC: 2-6/8th
Website: www.goduke.com



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RECRUITING

2004 CLASS

RATINGS BY RIVALS.COM

NAME	POS.	HT./WT.	HOMETOWN/SCHOOL
★★★★★ AMONG THE NATION'S TOP 30 PROSPECTS			
None			
★★★★ AMONG THE NATION'S TOP 200 PROSPECTS			
None			
★★★ AMONG THE NATION'S TOP 600 PROSPECTS			
Izzy Bauta	OL	6-4/270	Colts Neck, N.J./Poly Prep (N.Y.)
Chancellor Young	WR	6-2/210	Woodinville, Wash./O'Dea
★★ SOLID DIVISION I PROSPECT			
Adrian Aye-Darko	CB	6-2/190	Stevenson Ranch, Calif./Chaminade Prep
Patrick Bailey	TE	6-4/240	Elmendorf, Texas/Alamo Heights
Tim Ball	RB	6-1/205	Carrollton, Texas/Hebron
Justin Boyle	RB	6-1/220	Acworth, Ga./Harrison
Daniel Charbonnet	CB	5-11/170	The Woodlands, Texas/The Woodlands
Chris Davis	S	6-0/175	Stone Mountain, Ga./Marist
Ronnie Drummer	RB	5-9/165	Salinas, Calif./North Salinas
Rodney Ezzard	ATH	5-11/165	Atlanta/Chamblee
Cameron Goldberg	OL	6-6/250	Lutherville, Md./McDonogh
Evalio Harrell	CB	5-10/160	Tampa/Jesuit & Mercersburgh Academy (Pa.)
Jabari Marshall	CB	5-11/170	Atlanta/Mays
Andreas Platt	S	6-2/175	Greensboro, N.C./Ragsdale
Charles Robinson	LB	6-2/210	Sarasota, Fla./Riverview
Fred Roland	OL	6-8/305	Hephzibah, Ga./Hephzibah
Matt Rumsey	OL	6-4/250	Dunwoody, Ga./Marist
Rob Schirmann	OL	6-5/265	Cincinnati/Anderson
Zach Smith	LB	5-11/210	Suwanee, Ga./Buford
Jonathan Terry	OL	6-3/315	High Point, N.C./Ragsdale
Corey Thompson	WR	6-2/180	Atlanta/Douglass
Alfred Williams	LB	6-2/245	College Park, Ga./Westlake
Ryan Wood	WR	6-1/180	Buford, Ga./Buford
Jomar Wright	WR	6-1/180	Duncan, S.C./Byrnes

INSIDE DISH

First-year coach **Ted Roof** signed 24 players, headed by six defensive backs and six offensive linemen. ... Wide receiver **Chancellor Young** of Woodinville, Wash., is the highest ranked member of the class. He was rated as the nation's No. 26 receiver after a standout career at O'Dea High. He also excelled at defensive back. Washington tried to keep Young at home, and Notre Dame, Oregon and UCLA also were in the mix. In addition to Young, the Devils signed three other receivers: **Ryan Wood** of Buford, Ga., **Jomar Wright** of Duncan, S.C., and **Corey Thompson** of Atlanta. ... Other than Young, Duke's only other recruit ranked among the nation's top 100 at his position is **Izzy Bauta** of Colts Neck, N.J., who is No. 48 among guards. He also fielded offers from Maryland, Ohio State, South Florida and Rutgers. Bauta's brother, Lavdrim, is an offensive lineman at Duke. ... Running back **Justin Boyle** of Acworth, Ga., comes from the same high school that produced Blue Devils defensive back **Brian Greene**. ... Linebacker recruits **Charles Robinson**, **Zach Smith** and **Alfred Williams** will be welcomed to a defense desperate for help. ... Cornerback **Jabari Marshall** led the state of Georgia with nine picks last season. **Adrian Aye-Darko** of Stevenson Ranch, Calif., is another potential playmaker in the secondary. He has a rare combination of size and speed. *—Rivals.com*

Moravchik, a junior left tackle, also has some experience; he has made three starts and played in 16 games during his career.

Beyond that, the Blue Devils are dangerously inexperienced. The only other lineman who even lettered last season was center Dan Mooney, who is unlikely to start after missing spring practice because of injury.

Sophomore Tyler Krieg will be the center instead, perhaps for the next three seasons. The coaching staff is excited about the 6-5, 300-pounder, who has excellent athletic ability.

Junior Chris Best, who played in seven games last season, and sophomore Lavdrim Bauta, who played in three, have some experience at guard. Neither one made a start, however. With Best, Bauta and Krieg, the middle of the line is suspect.

The Blue Devils tried to build depth during the spring by moving Paul Campitelli and Joel East from the defensive line to offensive line.

DEFENSE

Line—Senior end Phillip Alexander has made a succesful switch from linebacker, and his size and speed make him one of the ACC's top returning ends. He ranked third in the ACC in tackles for loss with 18.5 and recorded six sacks last season. Alexander also has quality help along the line, something rarely seen in Durham.

Fellow senior Micah Harris again will start opposite Alexander at end. He's coming back from a leg injury suffered last season. Senior tackle Orrin Thompson, a starter last season, is back, as are sophomores Ben Benion, Casey Camero and Kevin Wilson and junior Demetrius Warrick, all letterwinners. But the Blue Devils will miss first-team All-ACC tackle Matt Zielinski, who had 18 tackles for loss last season.

Alexander is a dominating athlete, and the rest of the linemen usually are sound in their techniques and play with great effort. If opposing offenses have to double-team Alexander, his linemates are good enough to make plays.

Linebackers—Brendan Dewan, a junior who has been starting since he was a freshman, will be the leader of a solid group. Dewan finished third on the team with 91 tackles last season and had his best performance in the finale against North Carolina, finishing with 12 tackles and an interception.

Giuseppe Aguanno, a second-year starter, moves from the outside to the middle to replace Ryan Fowler, a four-year starter. Sophomore Codey Lowe, who is rejoining the program after taking a year off, is a promising talent as Aguanno's backup.

Junior Malcolm Ruff, who made 39 tack-

Mitchell is the lone returning starter on an almost completely rebuilt offensive line.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

BLUE DEVILS ROSTER

NO.	NAME	HT./WT.	CL.	EXP.	HOMETOWN/PREVIOUS SCHOOL
			QUARTERBACKS		
16	Kevin Cronin	6-0/165	So.	SQ	Middleton, Wis./Edgewood
9	Chris Dapolito	6-3/215	Sr.	2L	Matawan, N.J./Matawan
12	Curt Dukes	6-1/215	So.	SQ	Stony Point, N.C./Nebraska
7	Mike Schneider	6-3/215	So.	1L	Sharon, Penn./Sharon
			RUNNING BACKS		
49	Segun Akande	5-11/200	So.	SQ	Brooklyn, N.Y./Xavier
33	Cedric Dargan	6-0/200	Jr.	2L	Jacksonville, N.C./White Oak
31	Mike Dowling (FB)	6-2/245	So.	SQ	Baltimore, Md./Gilman School
32	Aaron Fryer	5-11/215	So.	1L	Tampa/Jesuit
15	John-Paul Kimbrough	5-11/200	Jr.	1L	Hendersonville, N.C./Hendersonville
45	Donald Tooley (FB)	6-0/215	So.	HS	Windimere, Fla./Olympia
			RECEIVERS/TIGHT ENDS		
6	Deon Adams	6-2/190	So.	1L	Greensboro, N.C./Smith
88	Steve Campbell	6-1/215	Jr.	SQ	Chagrin Falls, Ohio/Exeter (N.H.)
28	Ronnie Elliott	5-9/185	Jr.	2L	Huntsville, Ala./Lee
85	Kendral Felder	6-3/200	So.	1L	Wilson, N.C./Beddingfeld
82	Lance Johnson	6-1/185	Sr.	3L	Hickory, N.C./Hickory
86	Ben Kittleson	6-0/185	Jr.	2L	Buckner, Ky./Oldham County
21	Senterrio Landrum	5-9/185	Sr.	3L	Sweet Water, Ala./Sweet Water
11	Deonto McCormick (CB)	5-10/180	So.	1L	Adel, Ga./Cook County
8	Jamin Pastore	5-9/195	Jr.	1L	Lisbon, Ohio/Beaver Local
83	Ben Patrick (TE)	6-4/260	So.	1L	Savannah, Ga./Jenkins
87	Calen Powell (TE)	6-5/255	Sr.	3L	Bellevue, Wash./Lake Washington
89	Andy Roland (TE)	6-4/235	Jr.	2L	West Lawn, Penn./Wilson
80	Nick Stefanow (TE)	6-5/230	Fr.	RS	Wheeling, W. Va./Wheeling Park
19	Mark Wigal	5-10/185	Jr.	2L	Morgantown, W. Va./Morgantown
			OFFENSIVE LINEMEN		
77	Lavdrim Bauta (G)	6-5/290	So.	SQ	Brooklyn, N.Y./Poly Prep
73	Chris Best (G)	6-5/305	Jr.	SQ	Calgary, Alberta/Western Canada
71	Danny Bowling (T)	6-7/230	So.	SQ	Atlanta/Marist
53	Paul Campitelli (G)	6-3/265	So.	SQ	Dunkirk, Md./DeMatha
70	Joel East (G)	6-4/260	So.	SQ	Cambridge, Ohio/Cambridge
63	Andrew Guidry (G)	5-11/255	Jr.	SQ	Salem, Va./Salem
66	Tyler Krieg (C)	6-5/300	So.	SQ	Tualatin, Ore./Tualatin
72	Garrett Mason (T)	6-6/290	Fr.	RS	McAllen, Texas/McAllen
76	Zach Maurides (T)	6-6/275	Fr.	RS	Glenview, Ill./Glenbrook South
65	Christian Mitchell (T)	6-7/325	Sr.	3L	Amherst, N.Y./Sweet Home
78	Dan Mooney (C)	6-5/300	Sr.	1L	Bay Village, Ohio/Saint Ignatius
79	Jim Moravchik (T)	6-6/300	Jr.	2L	Sun Prairie, Wis./Sun Prairie
			DEFENSIVE LINEMEN		
48	Phillip Alexander (E)	6-4/255	Sr.	3L	Bronx, N.Y./Mt. St. Michael Academy
92	Ben Benion (T)	6-3/275	So.	1L	Milton, Penn./Milton
34	Derek Bryant (E)	6-3/215	So.	1L	Richmond, Va./Highland Springs
51	Casey Camero (T)	6-5/250	So.	1L	Tampa/Wyoming Seminary Prep (Penn.)
55	Micah Harris (E)	6-4/255	Sr.	3L	Poland, Ohio/Poland Seminary
41	Justin Kitchen (E)	6-4/235	Jr.	2L	Charlotte/Charlotte Country Day
97	David Martin (E)	6-4/240	Jr.	2L	Plano, Texas/Plano
99	Christopher Moore (E)	6-6/250	Fr.	RS	Burnsville, Minn./St. Thomas Academy
52	Eli Nichols (E)	6-5/250	So.	SQ	Crawfordville, Fla./Wakulla
91	Orrin Thompson (T)	6-7/320	Sr.	3L	Charlotte/Charlotte Christian
90	Demetrius Warrick (T)	6-7/305	Jr.	2L	Wilmington, Del./Mount Pleasant
54	Kevin Wilson (T)	6-2/265	So.	1L	Riverdale, Ga./Riverdale
			LINEBACKERS		
13	Giuseppe Aguanno	6-1/240	Sr.	3L	Staten Island, N.Y./Monsignor Farrell
30	Brendan Dewan	6-2/210	Jr.	2L	Austin, Texas/Westlake
58	Cody Lowe	6-2/230	So.	SQ	Houston, Texas/Langham Creek
22	Malcolm Ruff	6-1/250	Jr.	2L	Baltimore/Gilman School
62	B.J. Smith	5-9/215	So.	SQ	Lawrenceville, Ga./Collins Hill
42	Corey Sobel	6-0/205	Fr.	RS	Potomac, Md./DeMatha
29	DeAndre White	6-0/210	Jr.	2L	Suffolk, Va./Lakeland
43	Alex Williams	6-0/210	So.	1L	Dublin, Ga./West Laurens
			DEFENSIVE BACKS		
25	Simon Cheng (CB)	5-7/175	So.	SQ	Toronto/Upper Canada College
39	Jeramy Edwards (S)	6-0/205	So.	1L	Jackson, N.J./Jackson Memorial
17	Alex Green (S)	6-2/195	Sr.	3L	Hyattsville, Md./Northwestern
23	Brian Greene (S)	6-1/190	Jr.	2L	Kennesaw, Ga./Harrison
24	Cedric Mason (CB)	6-0/185	Fr.	RS	College Park, Ga./Riverdale
44	Matt Rising (S)	6-0/185	So.	SQ	Los Angeles/Loyola
3	Kenneth Stanford (CB)	5-9/180	Sr.	3L	Detriot/Renaissance
38	John Talley (CB)	5-11/175	So.	1L	Duncan, S.C./Byrnes
36	Brandon Tapps (S)	5-11/200	Fr.	RS	Garland, Texas/Garland
46	Mark Thompson (S)	6-3/215	Jr.	2L	Moorestown, N.J./Moorestown
5	C.J. Woodward (S)	6-0/185	Jr.	2L	Henderson, N.C./Northern Vance
			SPECIALISTS		
26	Matt Brooks (P/K)	6-1/190	Sr.	3L	Miami/Gulliver Prep
14	Alex Feinberg (K)	6-1/200	Fr.	RS	Thomasville, Ga./Thomasville
40	Mike Kaplanis (P)	6-2/210	So.	SQ	Raleigh/Cardinal Gibbons
18	Trey McDonald (P)	6-2/210	Sr.	3L	Oak Ridge, Tenn./Oak Ridge
57	Harrison Till (LS)	6-3/255	So.	HS	Wayne, N.J./Wayne Hills

les in a reserve role last season, will take Aguanno's place outside. Ruff was highly recruited as a running back and adds speed to the defense.

Secondary—With three starters returning, the Blue Devils again should be solid in the defensive backfield. Duke was fourth in the ACC in pass defense last season, averaging 216.9 yards allowed.

Kenneth Stanford is among the fastest corners in the ACC—the senior has been clocked in the 100 meters at 10.89 seconds. He also is solid enough at 5-9, 180 pounds not to be pushed around by big, physical receivers. And, he's a fourth-year starter.

Safeties Alex Green, a senior, and Brian Greene, a junior, are third-year starters. Greene moves from cornerback to safety to help replace Terrell Smith, the team's leading tackler last season.

The only new starter in the secondary will be cornerback John Talley, a wiry (5-11, 175) sophomore with good speed who made big contributions late last season. Talley will fit nicely in a secondary that could be the team's biggest strength.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Duke usually excels in this area, and this season should be no exception. Punter Trey McDonald is a fourth-year starter whose 40.7-yard average was fifth-best in the ACC last season. The average was not remarkable, but downing 15 punts inside the 20 without a touchback was. McDonald also had five punts of 50 or more yards and will be one of the team's strengths.

Senior Matt Brooks, who shared time at both kicker and punter last season, also is back. He wasn't as effective punting last season as McDonald, averaging just 34.5 yards, but downed eight punts inside the 20. He made six of nine field-goal attempts with a long of 44 yards, and was 3-for-3 inside 30 yards.

Landrum will be one of the ACC's top kick returners. He averaged 28.4 yards in 2003 and always is a breakaway threat. Lance Johnson, who averaged 5.0 yards on 21 punt returns, also is back.

BOTTOM LINE

The Blue Devils haven't been bowl eligible since 1994, and the losses on the offensive line and at running back will make it difficult to improve upon last season's results. Duke is capable of winning its three nonconference games but would need three ACC victories to become bowl eligible. That seems unlikely even if Schneider gets hot and the defense plays well. **TSN**

Ken Tysiac covers the ACC for the Charlotte Observer.

A third-year starter, Greene is moving from cornerback to safety.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

2003 RESULTS

at Virginia	L, 27-0
Western Carolina	W, 29-3
Rice	W, 27-24 (OT)
Northwestern	L, 28-10
Florida State	L, 56-7
at Maryland	L, 33-20
Wake Forest	L, 42-13
N.C. State	L, 28-21
at Tennessee	L, 23-6
Georgia Tech	W, 41-17
at Clemson	L, 40-7
at North Carolina	W, 30-22

STATISTICAL LEADERS

Rushing	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Chris Douglas	236	1,138	4.8	6
Cedric Dargan	**69**	**264**	**3.8**	**5**
Alex Wade	58	252	4.3	2

Passing	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Int.
Mike Schneider	**208**	**97**	**46.6**	**1,220**	**4**	**6**
Adam Smith	94	49	52.1	488	2	0
Chris Dapolito	**54**	**30**	**55.6**	**343**	**2**	**2**

Receiving	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Reggie Love	27	290	10.7	4
Lance Johnson	**23**	**247**	**10.7**	**1**
Khary Sharpe	23	233	10.1	0
Chris Douglas	20	212	10.6	0
Ben Patrick	**17**	**218**	**12.8**	**1**
Andy Roland	14	254	18.1	1

Kicking	XPM	XPA	FGM	FGA	Pts.
Matt Brooks	**15**	**17**	**6**	**9**	**33**
Brent Garber	5	5	7	12	26

Tackles	Solo	Assists	Total	TFL/Yds.
Terrell Smith	75	65	140	8.0/18
Ryan Fowler	79	57	136	12.5/-30
Brendan Dewan	**47**	**44**	**91**	**2.5/-6**
Matt Zielinski	58	17	75	18.0/-49

SACKS: Zielinski (7.0)
INTERCEPTIONS: Alex Green, John Talley, Temo George (2)

Returning players in bold

Team	Avg.	Rank
Rushing offense:	172.1	3rd ACC/40th nation
Rushing defense:	158.0	6th/63rd
Passing offense:	170.9	7th/99th
Passing defense:	216.9	4th/53rd
Total offense:	343.0	8th/85th
Total defense:	374.9	5th/57th
Turnover margin:	.33	4th/41st

KEY LOSSES

Offense

C Luke Bayer; RB Chris Douglas (236 carries, 1,138 yards, 6 TDs); G Daryl Lewis; WR Reggie Love (27 rec., 290 yards, 4 TDs); T Drew Strojny; RB Alex Wade (58 carries, 252 yards, 2 TDs); G Rusty Wilson.

Defense

LB Ryan Fowler (136 tackles, 12.5 for loss); S Terrell Smith (team-high 140 tackles); T Matt Zielinski (75 tackles, 18 tackles for loss, team-high 7 sacks).

THREE ON THE RISE

WR Deon Adams. Adams caught just one pass last year, but he has good size, speed and hands. He also is a good athlete—he was a sprinter in high school. He should begin to make his presence felt as a sophomore.

C Tyler Krieg. Recruited as a linebacker out of Oregon, Krieg has put on more than 70 pounds since enrolling at Duke. The sophomore now has great size and is the Blue Devils' most athletic lineman. Krieg won scholar-athlete of the year honors in the Portland area in 2001, so he also is smart enough to make good calls at the line of scrimmage.

LB Codey Lowe. Lowe was one of the top recruits out of the Houston area in 2002. He redshirted, then left Duke in 2003, and now has returned. He could make a significant impact as a sophomore. Lowe is a true middle linebacker with a good feel for the game. He should begin the season as a backup to Giuseppe Aguanno. If Lowe plays well, Aguanno could move back to outside linebacker, where he started last season.

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

Offense		Defense	
WR	Senterrio Landrum*	**E**	Phillip Alexander*
	Mark Wigal		Justin Kitchen
LT	Jim Moravchik	**T**	Orrin Thompson*
	Garrett Mason		Kevin Wilson
LG	Lavdrim Bauta	**T**	Casey Camero
	Joel East		Demetrius Warrick
C	Tyler Krieg	**E**	Micah Harris*
	Dan Mooney		Eli Nichols
RG	Chris Best	**OLB**	Brendan Dewan*
	Paul Campitelli		DeAndre White
RT	Christian Mitchell*	**MLB**	Giuseppe Aguanno*
	Zach Maurides		Codey Lowe
TE	Andy Roland*	**OLB**	Malcolm Ruff
	Calen Powell		Alex Williams
WR	Ronnie Elliott	**CB**	Kenneth Stanford*
	Deonto McCormick		Simon Cheng
WR	Lance Johnson*	**S**	Brian Greene*
	Deon Adams		C.J. Woodward
QB	Mike Schneider*	**S**	Alex Green*
	Chris Dapolito		Jeramy Edwards
RB	Cedric Dargan	**CB**	John Talley
	Aaron Fryer		Cedric Mason
K	Matt Brooks	**P**	Trey McDonald*
KR	Senterrio Landrum	**PR**	Lance Johnson

* Returning starter

BOSTON COLLEGE EAGLES

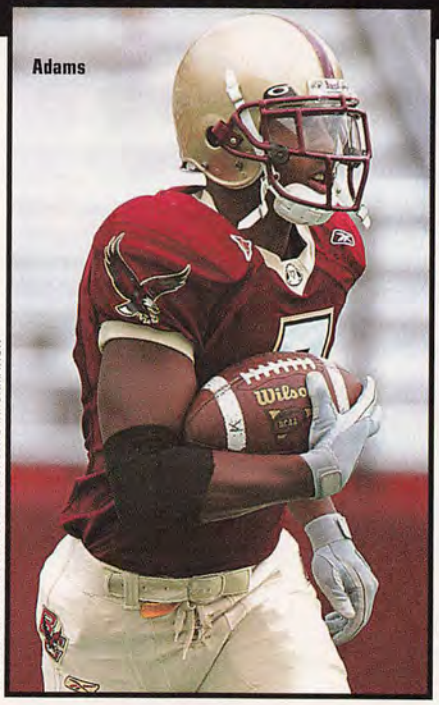
Projected finish: 7-4 4-3/2nd in Big East

By Michael Bradley

The Eagles can't expect a warm reception throughout the Big East this season as they make their final pass through the conference on the way to bigger and better things (they hope) in the ACC. Boston College's "will they/won't they" flirtation with the ACC finally ended in a full-fledged marriage proposal, and school officials hope the move, which won't take place formally until 2005, will help BC continue on its recent upward path.

Not that a new conference affiliation is a magic pill that guarantees success. By casting its lot with the likes of Florida State, not to mention Big East alums Virginia Tech and Miami, Boston College has upped the stakes considerably. Winning a championship, something it never has seriously contended for in the Big East, will take on the degree of difficulty of Rodney Dangerfield's Triple Lindy in *Back to School*. Even the hope of reaching seven or eight wins will require some careful nonconference scheduling, a necessary evil to withstand what promises to be a brutal league slate. As bad as Duke can be, the Blue Devils are not the same layups Temple and Rutgers have been.

BC's Big East swan song, however, could be prosperous. Removing the Hurricanes and Hokies from the slate will help considerably. With Pittsburgh and Syracuse wobbling a little, thanks to the Panthers' personnel losses and the mounting pressure on Orange coach Paul Pasqualoni, there is a real shot at a championship and—gasp!—a BCS bid. Some work remains, particularly at running back and along the defensive front seven, but the potential is there for a great farewell tour.



ALL PHOTOS BY BOSTON COLLEGE SPORTS INFORMATION

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	TSN pick
Sept. 2	at Ball State	W
Sept. 11	Penn State	W
Sept. 17	Connecticut	W
Sept. 25	at Wake Forest	L
Oct. 2	Massachusetts	W
Oct. 16	at Pittsburgh	L
Oct. 23	at Notre Dame	W
Nov. 6	Rutgers	W
Nov. 13	at West Virginia	L
Nov. 20	at Temple	W
Nov. 27	Syracuse	L

Strength of schedule rank
Big East: 6
Nation: 94

GAME OF THE YEAR

Sure, the Eagles love to beat Notre Dame, and their game at South Bend will be huge. But if BC wants to win the Big East, it must take care of the Mountaineers, who are likely to be their main competition. Boston College has lost three of four to WVU, including last year's game in Chestnut Hill. The opportunity for a title is there, but the Eagles must prove they can handle tough road trips, like the one to Morgantown.

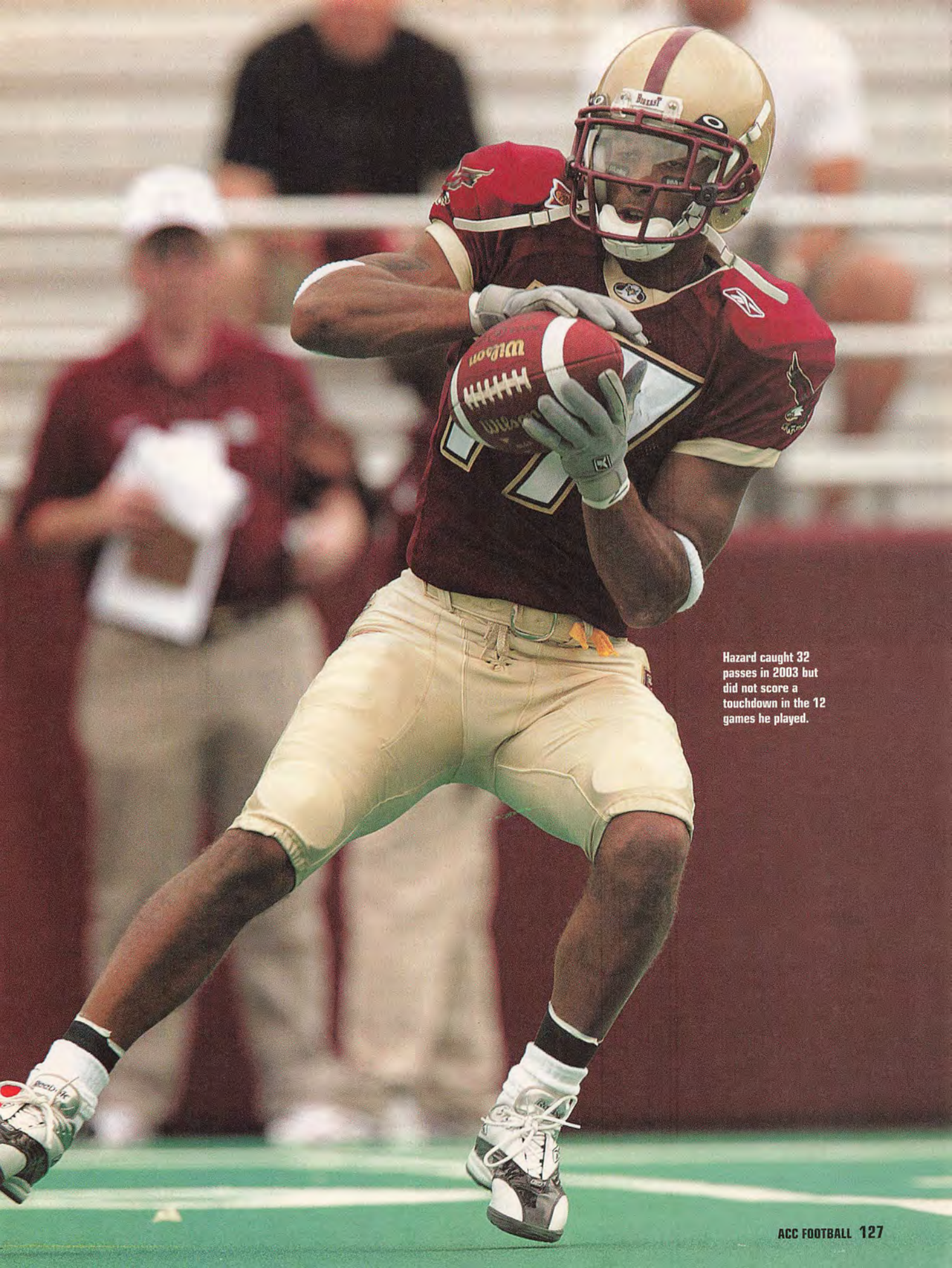
Boston College's swan song in the Big East looks to be pleasant. The Eagles figure to be favored in as many as nine games. Boston College is set up for a fast start, which will allow the running game to get into shape. The key stretch is September 25-October 23, when the Eagles play three of four on the road. At least BC has an off week after playing host to I-AA UMass to prepare for its most difficult challenge: back-to-back road games at Pittsburgh and Notre Dame. But BC is 6-5 vs. the Irish the past 11 years and has beaten Notre Dame three years in a row, winning two of its last three trips to South Bend.

COACHING

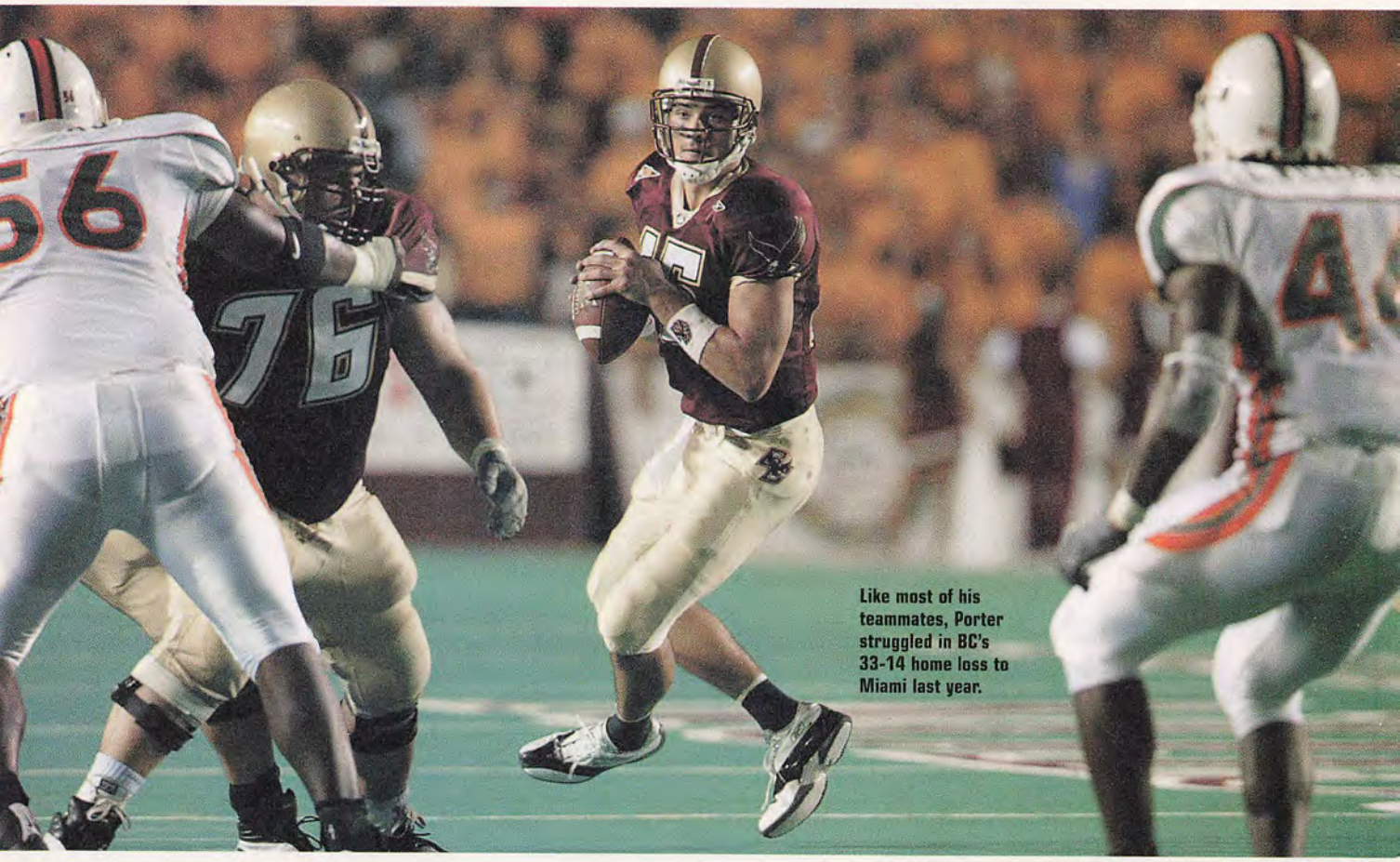
Strategies—One would expect an old Marine to be stodgy and defense oriented. And although Eagles coach Tom O'Brien does have great affection for the ground game and a solid defense, he never has failed to put together a balanced attack that relies heavily on the pass and produces plenty of points. It isn't quite a festival, but the Eagles are seldom boring. They use a pro-style scheme that allows for creativity over land and through the air. The result has been impressive. BC has produced a 1,000-yard rusher in each of the past six seasons, and the Eagles typically throw for more than 2,000 yards. Balance is key—and usually is achieved.

The defense is a 4-3 configuration that relies heavily on the front seven because the team's secondary is traditionally a shade smaller and a step slower than those from elite programs around the country. That's not by choice; it's a reality of football life at a small, private school in New England where hockey rules. But even that recruiting problem has improved recently.

More on Boston College at foxsports.com/named/FS/CFB/teams



Hazard caught 32 passes in 2003 but did not score a touchdown in the 12 games he played.



Like most of his teammates, Porter struggled in BC's 33-14 home loss to Miami last year.

Style—O'Brien's Marine pedigree is evident in his approach. He is not the gregarious, glad-handing sort but rather a devotee to discipline and someone who brings a purpose to everything he does. He believes players should generate their own high level of motivation, but he also is capable of providing inspiration, and he encourages creativity. The result is a team that takes calculated risks and players who take responsibility for their actions.

OFFENSE

Quarterbacks—The Eagles used two of them last year, and O'Brien might do the same this season. Quinton Porter started the first 10 games before injuring his hand against West Virginia and opening the door for Paul Peterson, a junior college transfer. All Peterson did was lead BC to three victories, including a San Francisco Bowl triumph against Colorado State in which he completed 16 of 25 passes for 224 yards and two scores.

The seniors will stage a spirited battle for playing time, with each expected to improve on last year's completion percentages (.560 and .571) and get the ball downfield better. Don't be surprised if O'Brien uses both throughout the year. Porter is a 6-5 pocket specialist; Peterson is 6-0, 184 and likes to move around. Look for Peterson, who turns 24 this summer and has a two-year Mormon mission under his belt, to be the favorite, although both quarterbacks have the potential to post strong numbers.

Running backs—The loss of Derrick Knight and his 1,721 rushing yards is tough to take, especially when top backup Horace Dodd (442) also has graduated. That means it's up to the kids, not that there isn't a lot of talent to choose from.

Sophomore Jeff Ross carried the ball only seven times last season for 33 yards but has fine speed. Two redshirt freshmen—Andre Callender and L.V. Whitworth—also will fight for time, with Callender possessing the most impressive pedigree. The top prospect might be speedy Floridian A.J. Brooks, who intends to make a true freshman impact.

Fullback will belong to sophomore transfer Mark Palmer, a bruiser. Highly touted freshman Brian Toal primarily will play linebacker, but he could get the call in short-yardage situations. He was an outstanding high school runner.

Receivers—There are no mysteries here, only a strong, deep collection of targets. Although tight end Sean Ryan has graduated, the Eagles have five proven pass catchers from which to choose.

Leading the way is senior Grant Adams, last year's top gun with 46 receptions. Adams, a solid deep threat, teams with possession man Joel Hazard in a solid starting

An ACC coach says...

BC has two capable quarterbacks. It's not like when they had Brian St. Pierre and Tim Hasselbeck, but they have to be feeling pretty good about their situation under center. If something happens to one of their quarterbacks, they'll be OK. I don't think **Quinton Porter** did a bad job last year, even though they replaced him later in the year with **Paul Peterson**. ... They use their tight ends a lot on offense and are more of a one-back set, with multiple receivers. They'll mix it up, but they like having at least one and usually two tight ends in the ballgame. ... They've thrown the ball downfield more than they had in the past, and that's because their receivers have gotten better. ... Their offensive line is big and physical, and that's why they've had so many good running backs. They do a lot of zone blocking, and they have good techniques and fundamentals. But they'll get after you. ... (Defensive end) **Mathias Kiwanuka** is a great player. He's huge. It's not often that you get a guy who's that big who can move like him. He has some real burst in him. ... I think **Tom O'Brien** has done a much better job each year recruiting. They're getting more speed than they've had, and it's clear they've made a pretty conscious effort to get faster. But they're still a physical football team. Sometimes, their offense is a little ahead of the defense, but generally they're solid all the way around.

combo. But both will be pushed by sophomore Jason Lilly, who announced his presence last year with a six-catch performance against Wake Forest. Lilly, a sophomore with fine straightaway speed and good size (6-1, 213), could blossom and force O'Brien to use more three- and four-receiver sets.

Junior Larry Lester is diminutive (5-7), but just try to catch him. He switched from cornerback to wideout before last season and averaged 22.2 yards on his 17 receptions. As he becomes more familiar with the offense, he'll be even more dangerous. If you're looking for a wild card, try sophomore Taylor Sele, who might not be quite ready for prime time but has superior speed and the ability to roll after a catch.

BC's offense loves the tight end—a position that accounted for 10 touchdown catches last season. With the loss of Ryan, senior Dave Kashetta figures to get plenty of work. Kashetta totaled 18 receptions and four TDs in a backup role. He has good vertical speed as well as the heft (256 pounds) to handle blocking assignments.

Line—O'Brien might not know yet who will take the majority of handoffs this season, but he does have a pretty good idea who will be opening holes for him to run through.

Life would really have been good if right guard Chris Snee, a first-team All-Big East guard, wouldn't have decided to declare early for the NFL draft. His departure and the graduation loss of fellow All-Big East guard Augie Hoffmann leave significant holes to fill. But there is plenty of beef to set the framework for another good running attack.

It all starts at center, where Pat Ross returns for his junior season. Ross stepped in for Dan Koppen last season and continued the BC tradition of excellence in the pivot. Before he leaves, the 6-4, 294-pounder could be every bit as good as Koppen or his predecessor, Damien Woody.

Another star-in-waiting is hulking 6-8, 315-pound left tackle Jeremy Trueblood. That size is impressive, but so is his range and work ethic. Trueblood needs only to get stronger to become special.

"Special" also could describe sophomore Josh Beekman, a 320-pounder who will step in at right guard. Beekman started two games on the left side last year when Hoffmann was injured and showed plenty of promise. He has the power to be an interior bulldozer. The other guard figures to come from a group that includes sophomores James Marten and Shadu Moore and redshirt freshman Tom Anevski.

The right tackle position will be a work in progress. One candidate is sophomore Gosder Cherilus, a hulking specimen (6-7, 290) who backed up departed starter Keith Leavitt last year. Another is redshirt freshman Ty Hall. A third possibility is 6-8, 312-pound Marten if he doesn't start at guard. Marten got valuable experience as Trueblood's backup last season.

NICKEL PACKAGE

Five things to look for

1 Boston College has had a 1,000-yard rusher each of the past six years. The youngsters fighting for the ball this season aren't at that level yet, but BC's scheme is excellent, and there will be holes to run through.

2 It used to be that BC couldn't get those big, fast cover guys. This isn't a pro-sized group yet, but it is far better than its predecessors. Look for a lot of big plays and turnovers.

3 Kicking could be a problem. Mike Fassel hasn't kicked at BC and didn't do much work in high school. Neither Tyler DiPace nor Dennis Eaton is a big-time prospect.

4 The passing game has promise. No matter who lines up under center, there are targets galore.

5 Now that the lawsuits and squabbling have ended, Boston College can focus on making its final rounds in the only conference it ever has known.

QUICK HITS

COACHING STAFF

Head coach: Tom O'Brien (48-36, 7 years)
Assistant head coach/recruiting coordinator/special teams: Jerry Petercuskie (8th year)
Offensive coordinator/quarterbacks/wide receivers: Dana Bible (6th year)
Defensive coordinator: Frank Spaziani (6th year, 8th overall)
Tight ends: Jim Bridge (2nd year)
Offensive line: Don Horton (2nd year, 8th overall)
Defensive backs: Kevin Lempa (2nd year)
Linebackers: Bill McGovern (5th year, 8th overall)
Running backs: Jason Swepson (6th year)
Defensive line: Keith Willis (4th year)

FORMATIONS AND FIGURES

Offensive scheme: Pro set
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Last league title won: None
Last time didn't go to a bowl: 1998
2003 TSN preseason rank: 60
2003 record: 8-5 (beat Colorado State in San Francisco Bowl); Big East: 3-4/5th
Website: www.bceagles.com

Stadium: Alumni (artificial, 44,500)
Site: Chestnut Hill, Mass.
Tickets: 617-552-4622

RECRUITING

2004 CLASS

RATINGS BY RIVALS.COM

NAME	POS.	HT./WT.	HOMETOWN/SCHOOL
★★★★★ AMONG THE NATION'S TOP 30 PROSPECTS			
Brian Toal	FB/LB	6-2/230	Wyckoff, N.J./Don Bosco Prep
★★★★ AMONG THE NATION'S TOP 200 PROSPECTS			
Brandon Robinson	WR/DB	6-0/190	Minneapolis/The Breck School
★★★ AMONG THE NATION'S TOP 600 PROSPECTS			
Kevin Akins	S/RB	6-2/195	Lansdale, Pa./North Penn
Ron Brace	DL	6-4/320	Worcester, Mass./Burncoat
A.J. Brooks	RB	6-0/190	Orlando/Bishop Moore
Chris Crane	QB	6-5/220	Mechanicsburg, Pa./Trinity
Marquise Liverpool	WR/DB	5-9/180	Teaneck, N.J./Don Bosco Prep
Ryan Purvis	TE	6-4/235	Reinholds, Pa./Lancaster Catholic
Justin Tougas	OL	6-7/275	Queensburg, N.Y./Glenn Falls
Tom Walls	LB	6-1/237	Woodbury, N.J./West Deptford
Jerry Willette	DL	6-5/250	Mansfield, Mass./Mansfield
Keith Willis	FB	6-1/240	Stoughton, Mass./Xaverian Brothers
★★ SOLID DIVISION I PROSPECT			
Johnny Ayers	P	6-0/180	Oakton, Va./James Madison
Robert Francois	LB	6-3/220	Houston/Governor Dummer Academy
Carlos Huggins	OL	6-6/295	Coral Springs, Fla./Stoneman Douglas
Frantz Joseph	LB	6-2/225	Ft. Lauderdale, Fla./Ft. Lauderdale
James Ohliger	K	5-10/180	Newark, Del./The Tatnall School
B.J. Raji	DL	6-1/300	Washington Township, N.J./Westwood Regional
Cliff Ramsey	OL	6-6/265	Loveland, Ohio/Loveland

INSIDE DISH

With the Eagles preparing to follow Miami and Virginia Tech into the ACC, the importance of recruiting better athletes is magnified. **Tom O'Brien** and his staff believe they took a step in the right direction with this group, which ranks No. 24 in the nation. But the staff's hands were tied with a limited number of scholarships available. … The team's top recruit is five-star New Jersey product **Brian Toal**, the nation's No. 3 inside linebacker and the No. 25 prospect overall. He's one of the school's best recruits in the past decade. Toal is the brother of former Boston College fullback **Greg Toal**. … The Eagles signed what they hope will be their backfield of the future in running back **A.J. Brooks** and fullback **Keith Willis**. Brooks is cut from the mold of recent standout backs at Boston College; Willis is the son of former NFL player **Keith Willis**. … Boston College added two of the nation's top wide receivers/defensive backs in **Brandon Robinson** and **Marquise Liverpool**. Both players are exceptional athletes. Robinson, who attended the same high school as former Pittsburgh wideout **Larry Fitzgerald**, had 82 catches for 1,570 yards and 27 touchdowns last year. … The Eagles need to boost their kicking game and think punter **Johnny Ayers** and kicker **Jim Ohliger** will be the answer. … The coaches believe they landed their quarterback of the future in **Chris Crane**, a big pocket passer who has a good arm. … **Jerry Willette** and **Ron Brace**, who is a massive run stuffer, will fortify the defensive line. … The school has become an offensive line factory and signed three more, including **Justin Tougas**. —*Rivals.com*

DEFENSE

Line—Remember the name Mathias Kiwanuka. Big East offensive coordinators already have it committed to memory, thanks primarily to the nightmares they suffer every night leading up to the Boston College game. Kiwanuka is enough to make most coaches wish the Eagles had made their ACC move in 2004.

The 6-8, 249-pound junior end was an all-conference terror last season when he led the league with 13 sacks and added 16 tackles behind the line for good measure. Tall, fast and powerful, Kiwanuka cannot be controlled by one blocker. Sometimes, two aren't even enough. He was productive in every game and is sure to find his way onto many All-American teams this season.

The Eagles also got five sacks from opposite end Phillip Mettling, who returns for his senior season. Highly regarded Justin Bell, one of the few true freshmen who played some last season, will get more playing time behind Mettling, with sophomore Danny Zepp also in the mix.

Starting tackles Tom Martin and Doug Goodwin are gone, but O'Brien shouldn't have too much trouble replacing them. Senior Tim Bulman got considerable playing time last season and closed with 33 tackles and three sacks. Next to him will be junior Al Washington, who is projected as a rising star.

Linebackers—The Eagles sustained some body blows here, losing Josh Ott and Brian Flores, who combined for 234 tackles last season. Boston College will have to rebuild around junior middle man Ray Henderson, an athletic former high school quarterback who showed a knack for getting to the ball in his first year as a regular while making 88 tackles.

There appears to be plenty of talent ready to step in on the outside. Juniors Ricky Brown and Jon Misiewicz appear to have first dibs on starting jobs. Brown was moved inside last year but should thrive with a return to the outside. He is a good ballhawk with a strong motor. Misiewicz played 11 games in the 2003 linebacker rotation. Either, however, could give way to freshman Toal, a big-time recruit O'Brien will consider for immediate starting duty. If Toal doesn't win a starting job right away, he figures to at least make an impact off the bench.

Also in the mix is sophomore Jeff Burns, a 6-3, 235-pounder with good speed. Watch also for redshirt freshman JoLonn Dunbar, who made a big showing in the spring.

Secondary—This is a deep talent well for a defensive unit that loses starting strong safety Paul Cook but returns three other regulars and a host of proven backups.

Leading the way is junior corner Will Blackmon, a second-team all-league choice and a speedy cover man who could rank among the nation's best. Blackmon, who doubles as a kick and punt return man, led

Blackmon can hurt an opponent from the secondary or on special teams—and often does.

EAGLES ROSTER

NO.	NAME	HT./WT.	CL.	EXP.	HOMETOWN/PREVIOUS SCHOOL
			QUARTERBACKS		
	David D'Ambrosio	6-3/189	Fr.	RS	Corte Madera, Calif./Marin Catholic
14	Karim El Nokali	6-4/220	So.	SQ	Pittsburgh/Chartiers Valley
18	Paul Peterson	6-0/184	Sr.	1L	Ephraim, Utah/Snow College
15	Quinton Porter	6-5/224	Sr.	1L	Portland, Maine/Portland
12	Matt Ryan	6-5/215	Fr.	RS	Exton, Pa./William Penn Charter
			RUNNING BACKS		
32	Andre Callender	6-0/184	Fr.	RS	Roselle, N.J./Seton Hall Prep
25	Michael Grant	5-9/193	Jr.	SQ	Norwood, Mass./Norwood
39	Everett Lee (FB)	5-11/208	Sr.	SQ	Philadelphia/Central
47	Paddy Lynch (FB)	6-2/236	So.	SQ	Bloomfield, Mich./Brother Rice
49	Mark Palmer (FB)	6-3/239	So.	SQ	Granite Bay, Calif./Granite Bay
38	Jeff Ross	6-0/199	So.	1L	Lowell, Mass./Lowell
35	L.V. Whitworth	6-0/215	Fr.	RS	Milton, Mass./Catholic Memorial
			RECEIVERS/TIGHT ENDS		
5	Grant Adams	6-1/200	Sr.	3L	Glen Rock, N.J./Glen Rock
84	Kevin Challenger	5-8/185	Fr.	RS	Montreal/Vanier College
	Matt Collier	6-0/195	Jr.	SQ	Princeton, N.J./The Hun School
26	Tony Gonzalez	5-11/192	So.	1L	Framingham, Mass./Worcester Academy
17	Joel Hazard	5-10/185	Sr.	2L	Marietta, Ga./Sprayberry
95	Justin Hinds (TE)	6-4/271	Sr.	2L	Piscataway, N.J./Piscataway
86	David Kashetta (TE)	6-4/256	Sr.	2L	Westport, Conn./Staples
87	Trey Koziol (TE)	6-5/248	Fr.	RS	Hinsdale, Ill./Hinsdale Central
6	Larry Lester	5-7/185	Jr.	2L	Piscataway, N.J./Piscataway
82	Jason Lilly	6-1/213	So.	1L	Dover, Del./Dover
	Mike Makinde	5-11/183	Fr.	RS	Tarrytown, N.Y./Hackley School
88	Chris Miller (TE/LS)	6-5/263	Jr.	1L	Upper Arlington, Ohio/Upper Arlington
	Stefan Scoon	6-0/175	Fr.	RS	Belleville, N.J./The Peddie School
13	Taylor Sele	6-0/201	So.	SQ	Richmond Hill, N.Y./Lawrence Academy
			OFFENSIVE LINEMEN		
67	Tom Anevski (G)	6-4/272	Fr.	RS	Cincinnati/Elder
75	Josh Beekman (G)	6-1/320	So.	1L	Amsterdam, N.Y./Amsterdam
77	Gosder Cherilus (T)	6-7/290	Fr.	RS	Somerville, Mass./Somerville
	Joe Graziose (G)	6-4/287	So.	SQ	Glen Cove, N.Y./Holy Trinity
54	Ty Hall (T)	6-4/278	Fr.	RS	Cincinnati/Anderson
65	Chris Hathy (C)	6-4/320	Jr.	SQ	Pittsburgh/Mount Lebanon
70	James Marten (G/T)	6-8/312	So.	1L	Indianapolis/Brebeuf Jesuit
63	Shadu Moore (T)	6-1/305	So.	SQ	Paterson, N.J./Paterson Catholic
74	Ryan Poles (T)	6-5/295	Fr.	RS	Canandaigua, N.Y./Canandaigua Academy
66	Pat Ross (C)	6-4/294	Jr.	1L	Cincinnati/St. Xavier
61	Kevin Sheridan (C)	6-3/278	Fr.	RS	North Royalton, Ohio/St. Ignatius
72	Jeremy Trueblood (T)	6-8/315	Jr.	2L	Indianapolis/Cathedral
			DEFENSIVE LINEMEN		
58	Justin Bell (T)	6-3/275	So.	1L	Alexandria, Va./Mount Vernon
96	Tim Bulman (T)	6-4/285	Sr.	3L	Milton, Mass./Boston College
92	Myran Hunter (E)	6-2/241	Sr.	1L	Tallahassee, Fla./Lincoln
94	Mathias Kiwanuka (E)	6-8/249	Jr.	2L	Indianapolis/Cathedral
57	Nick Larkin (E)	6-4/241	Fr.	RS	Cincinnati/St. Xavier
93	Phillip Mettling (E)	6-3/261	Sr.	3L	Louisville, Ky./St. Xavier
51	Jake Ottolini (E)	6-4/242	So.	1L	Dummer, N.H./New Hampton School
85	Ryan Thompson (E)	6-5/244	Fr.	RS	Akron, Ohio/Archbishop Hoban
56	Alvin Washington (T)	6-0/286	Jr.	2L	Columbus, Ohio/Watterson
59	Daniel Zepp (T)	6-4/270	So.	1L	Louisville, Ky./St. Xavier
91	Robert Ziminski (T)	6-3/251	So.	SQ	Willow Springs, Ill./Argo
			LINEBACKERS		
10	Dan Berglund	6-3/217	So.	SQ	Shorewood, Minn./Minnetonka
55	Ricky Brown	6-2/238	Jr.	2L	Cincinnati/Elder
53	Jeff Burns	6-3/235	So.	SQ	Basking Ridge, N.J./Ridge
40	JoLonn Dunbar	6-1/220	Fr.	RS	Syracuse, N.Y./Corcoran
	Christopher Emper	6-0/212	Jr.	SQ	West Chester, Penn./Malvern Prep
3	Ray Henderson	6-3/231	Jr.	2L	Cresskill, N.J./Cresskill
42	Jon Misiewicz	6-3/216	Jr.	1L	Sarasota, Fla./Cardinal Mooney
48	Tyronne Pruitt	5-11/218	Fr.	RS	Brockton, Mass./Brockton
			DEFENSIVE BACKS		
9	Larry Anam (CB)	6-0/193	So.	1L	Hialeah, Fla./American
1	Will Blackmon (CB)	6-0/198	Jr.	2L	Cranston, R.I./Bishop Hendricken
24	Ryan Glasper (S)	6-0/190	So.	1L	Southington, Conn./Southington
7	Nathanael Hasselbeck (S)	5-11/196	Jr.	2L	Norfolk, Mass./Bridgton Academy
29	Taji Morris (CB)	5-11/186	So.	SQ	Edgewater Park, N.J./The Peddie School
21	Brad Mueller (CB)	6-0/170	Fr.	RS	Valencia, Pa./Mars Area
19	Peter Shean (CB)	5-9/178	Sr.	2L	Medfield, Mass./Xaverian Brothers
44	Jamie Silva (S)	5-11/207	Fr.	RS	East Providence, R.I./East Providence
23	T.J. Stancil (S)	6-1/212	Sr.	3L	Bensalem, Pa./Bensalem
30	DeJuan Tribble (CB)	5-10/186	Fr.	RS	Cincinnati/North College Hill
	Antonio Valverde (S)	6-2/200	So.	SQ	Byfield, Mass./Governor Dummer Academy
4	Jazzmen Williams (S)	5-8/183	Jr.	2L	Pittsford, N.Y./Sutherland
			SPECIALISTS		
81	Francois Brochu (LS)	6-5/228	Jr.	2L	St. Austin, Quebec/Lennoxville
	Tyler DiPace (K)	6-1/207	Fr.	RS	Acton, Mass./Acton-Boxboro
	Dennis Eaton (K/P)	6-1/162	Fr.	RS	Parkton, Md./Loyola Blakefield
11	Mike Fassel (K)	5-11/172	Sr.	2L	Ho Ho Kus, N.J./Don Bosco Prep
25	Jeff Gomulinski (P)	6-0/201	Sr.	1L	Naugatuck, Conn./Holy Cross
	Patrick Sullivan (LS)	5-10/200	Fr.	RS	Boston/St. Sebastians's
62	William Troost (K)	5-9/150	Jr.	SQ	North Bethesda, Md./Georgetown Prep

the team with four interceptions last season. Senior Peter Shean returns to man the other corner. Shean, who finally is recovered from a two-year-old knee injury, is quick, tough and ready to pick up his play. Shean's good health and the quality backup of corners Larry Anam and DeJuan Tribble have allowed O'Brien to experiment at the strong safety position.

Jazzmen Williams, a big-play cornerback who performed through much of last season with a cast on his wrist, will start there with capable backup from Ryan Glasper—a 2003 true freshman who made 52 tackles and a strong first impression.

Senior T.J. Stancil returns to free safety after a good 2003 showing. Stancil made three interceptions and earned top player honors against Colorado State in the San Francisco Bowl. Backing up Stancil will be redshirt freshman Jamie Silva.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Boston College is generally in good shape here, but the Eagles desperately need to find a consistent kicker.

Sandro Sciortino was a little erratic throughout his career, but he did make some big kicks. Now it's up to either senior Mike Fassel, last year's holder and the son of former Giants coach Jim Fassel, or a pair of redshirt freshmen—Tyler DiPace and Dennis Eaton.

Punting duties again will be handled by senior Jeff Gomulinski, who came to BC last year after Fairfield dropped football and averaged 39.8 yards per kick. He has been working hard to improve at pinning rivals inside their 20-yard lines.

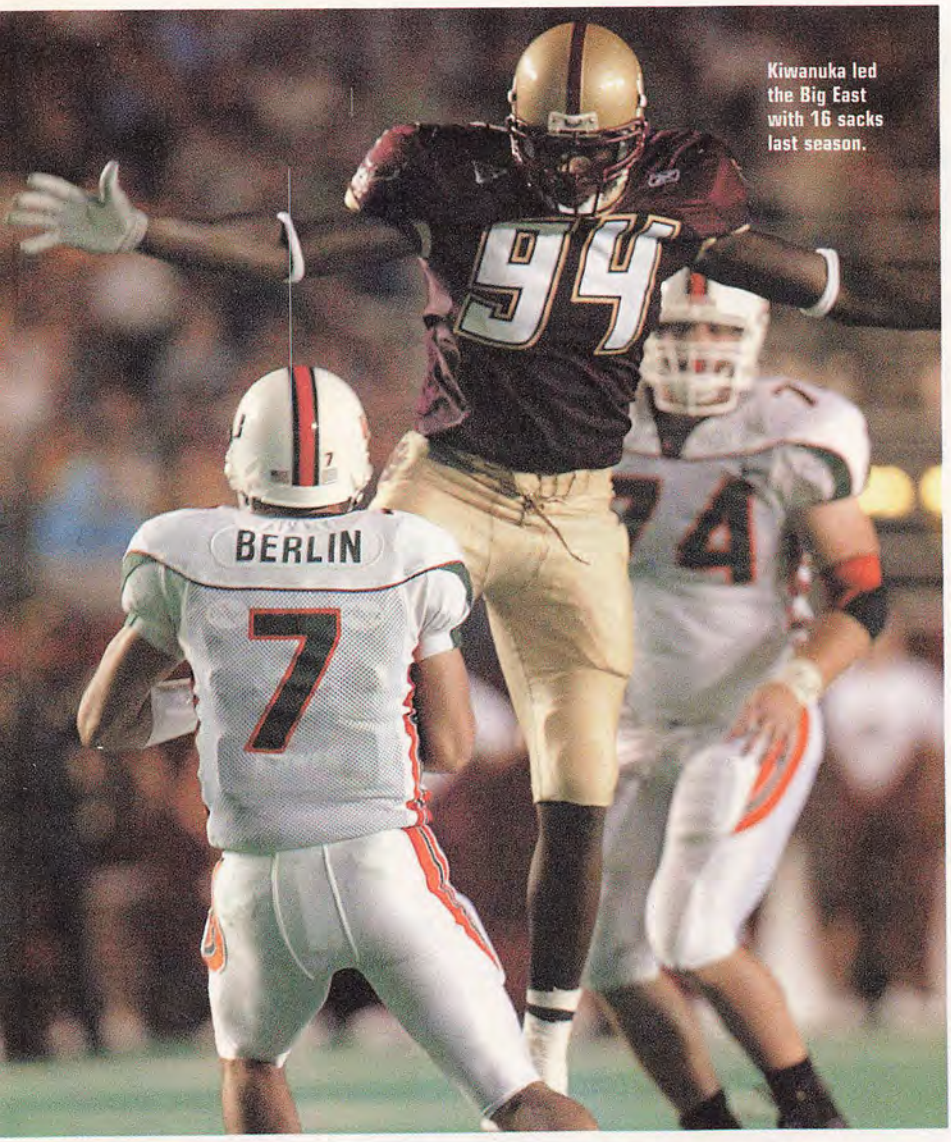
The return game is strong with Blackmon, who handles kicks and punts, and backup safety Nathanael Hasselbeck, who averaged a strong 11.1 yards per punt return. BC really needs to improve its coverage units, which allowed way too many yards.

BOTTOM LINE

This could be a big year for the Eagles. The Big East is down with the departure of Miami and Virginia Tech. The Eagles have experience at quarterback, and their defense could be outstanding if the new starters at linebacker deliver. Boston College is understandably proud of qualifying for five consecutive bowl games; now it should be aiming even higher.

A New Year's Day date could be available, provided the Eagles sustain momentum throughout the season rather than adhering to last year's win-two, lose-one pattern. The passing game should be fine, and if the young runners emerge, BC will score a bunch of points. **TSN**

Michael Bradley is a free-lance writer based in Philadelphia.



Kiwanuka led the Big East with 16 sacks last season.

2003 RESULTS

Wake Forest	L, 32-28
at Penn State	W, 27-14
at Connecticut	W, 24-14
Miami	L, 33-14
Ball State	W, 53-29
at Temple	W, 38-13
at Syracuse	L, 39-14
Notre Dame	W, 27-25
Pittsburgh	L, 24-13
West Virginia	L, 35-28
at Rutgers	W, 35-25
at Virginia Tech	W, 34-27
*Colorado State	W, 35-21

*San Francisco Bowl

STATISTICAL LEADERS

Rushing	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Derrick Knight	321	1,721	5.4	11
Horace Dodd	89	442	5.0	10
Quinton Porter	**78**	**159**	**2.0**	**2**
Paul Peterson	**39**	**96**	**2.5**	**0**

Passing	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Int.
Quinton Porter	**250**	**140**	**56.0**	**1,764**	**14**	**6**
Paul Peterson	**147**	**84**	**57.1**	**1,124**	**10**	**7**

Receiving	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Grant Adams	**46**	**720**	**15.7**	**5**
Sean Ryan	35	447	12.8	6
Joel Hazard	**32**	**401**	**12.5**	**0**
Derrick Knight	26	227	8.7	0
David Kashetta	**18**	**262**	**14.6**	**4**
Larry Lester	**17**	**378**	**22.2**	**5**

Kicking	XPM	XPA	FGM	FGA	Pts.
Sandro Sciortino	36	36	11	18	69
Mike Fassel	**9**	**10**	—	—	**9**

Tackles	Solo	Assists	Total	TFL/Yds.
Josh Ott	70	58	128	6.0/-16
Brian Flores	66	40	106	6.0/-16
Ray Henderson	**46**	**42**	**88**	**8.0/-17**
Mathias Kiwanuka	**58**	**25**	**83**	**16.0/-73**
T.J. Stancil	**55**	**27**	**82**	**2.0/-12**

SACKS: Kiwanuka (13.0)
INTERCEPTIONS: Will Blackmon (4)

Returning players in bold

Team	Avg.	Rank
Rushing offense:	182.1	4th Big East/31st nation
Rushing defense:	128.7	2nd/30th
Passing offense:	222.2	4th/52nd
Passing defense:	229.5	6th/74th
Total offense:	404.2	2nd/35th
Total defense:	358.2	2nd/44th
Turnover margin:	.38	4th/34th

KEY LOSSES

Offense

G Augie Hoffmann; RB Derrick Knight (321 carries, 1,721 yards, 11 TDs, 26 rec., 227 yards); TE Sean Ryan (35 rec., 447 yards, 6 TDs); G Chris Snee; FB Greg Toal.

Defense

CB Paul Cook (68 tackles); LB Josh Ott (team-leading 128 tackles) LB Brian Flores (106 tackles); T Tom Martin (34 tackles, 8 tackles for loss).

THREE ON THE RISE

G Josh Beekman. He played enough as a redshirt freshman behind Augie Hoffmann to give opponents a taste of what's to come. He's big, quick and perfect for the interior. He will have to fight through pressure as the anchor for the untested right side of the line, but Beekman should have enough talent to pass that test.

LB Brian Toal. This is no ordinary freshman. He could play fullback—coach Tom O'Brien plans to use him in short-yardage situations—but his best spot is linebacker, where there is immediate need. Toal might not start right away on the outside, but he could be a regular by year's end. If he doesn't crack the first 11, he will make an impact, either as a reserve or on special teams.

DT Al Washington. The hard-charging junior recorded 18 tackles and two sacks last season in a reserve role. Now he's ready to take over at tackle and live up to his billing as a rising star. Teams that spend too much time worrying about Mathias Kiwanuka on the outside will see their interiors caved in by Washington.

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

Offense		Defense	
WR	Grant Adams*	**LE**	Mathias Kiwanuka*
	Larry Lester		Myran Hunter
LT	Jeremy Trueblood*	**LT**	Al Washington
	Ryan Poles		Justin Bell
LG	James Marten	**RT**	Tim Bulman
	Tom Anevski		Robert Ziminski
C	Pat Ross*	**RE**	Phillip Mettling*
	Chris Hathy		Nick Larkin
RG	Josh Beekman	**OLB**	Ricky Brown
	Joe Graziose		Tyronne Pruitt
RT	Gosder Cherilus	**MLB**	Ray Henderson*
	Ty Hall		JoLonn Dunbar
TE	Dave Kashetta	**OLB**	Jon Misiewicz
	Justin Hinds		Jeff Burns
WR	Joel Hazard*	**CB**	Peter Shean*
	Jason Lilly		Larry Anam
QB	Paul Peterson	**SS**	Jazzmen Williams
	Quinton Porter*		Ryan Glasper
RB	Jeff Ross	**FS**	T.J. Stancil*
	L.V. Whitworth		Jamie Silva
FB	Mark Palmer	**CB**	Will Blackmon*
	Everett Lee		DeJuan Tribble
K	Mike Fassel	**P**	Jeff Gomulinski
KR	Will Blackmon*	**PR**	Will Blackmon

* Returning starter

BIGGER IS BETTER

Paced by Florida State, the expanded ACC signed 21 of the nation's top 100 prospects

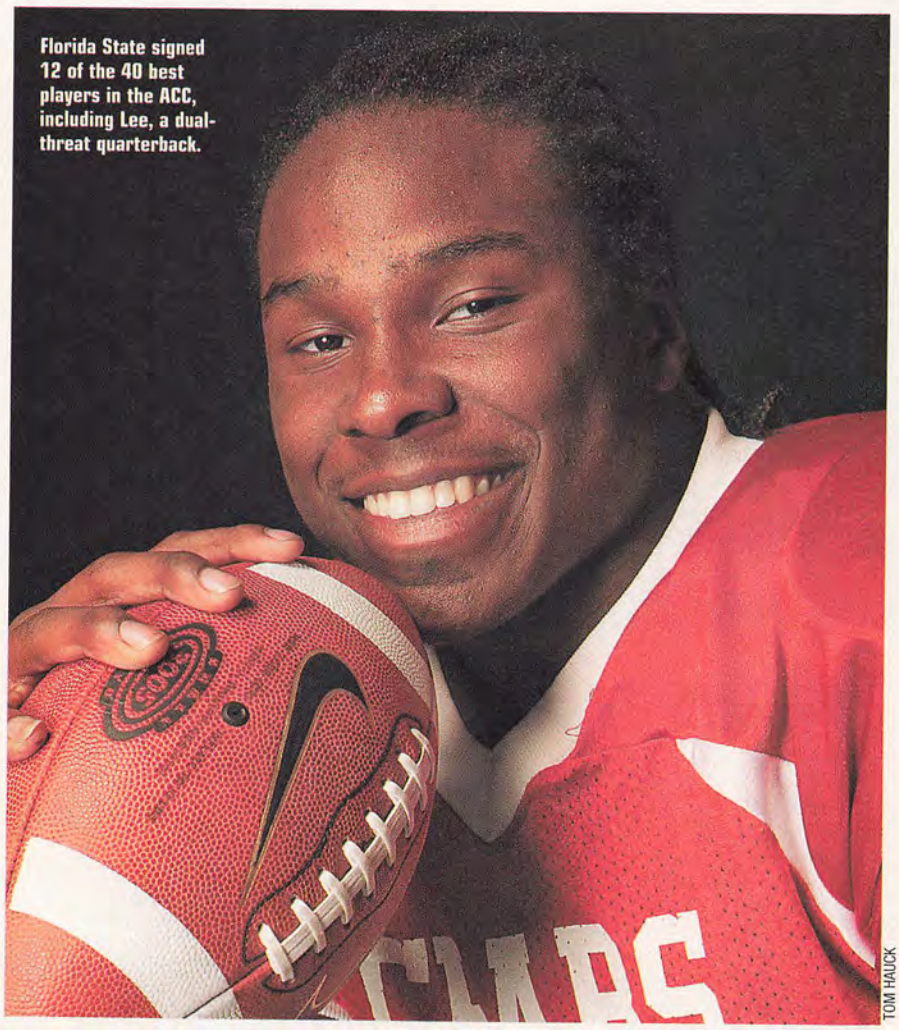
By Bobby Burton

The ACC, long associated with "Tobacco Road" and its deep basketball tradition, received a major facelift in 2003 that has yielded a sparkling new football image.

The defection of Miami, Virginia Tech and Boston College (2005) from the Big East gives the ACC three top programs to go with the likes of Florida State, Virginia, Maryland, N.C. State and Clemson. The league now is expected to flex its muscles with the best the nation has to offer, not only on the field but also in recruiting.

Miami and Boston College both posted top 25 classes in this year's Rivals.com national rankings, joining Florida State and Maryland. Florida State and Miami finished Nos. 3 and No. 4, respectively, and always will be at or near the top of the rankings because of the deep pool of talent in the Sunshine State. Their new shared conference affiliation will take that already hot rivalry to new heights.

More individual star power also will be gracing the league's turf in years to come. An eye-popping 21 of the nation's top 100 players in the class of 2004 signed with ACC schools, including four of the top 25: linebacker Willie Williams (Miami), defensive tackle DeMario Pressley (N.C. State), receiver Lance Leggett (Miami) and fullback/linebacker Brian Toal (Boston College).



Florida State signed 12 of the 40 best players in the ACC, including Lee, a dual-threat quarterback.

TOM HAUCK

1. FLORIDA STATE. After a disappointing 2002 season in which they slipped from the ranks of the nation's elite, the Seminoles bounced back in a major way. Coach Bobby Bowden reclaimed the mantle as the top recruiting team in the Sunshine State, surging in the final two months to finish behind only Southern California and LSU nationally. The class is loaded from top to bottom, and dual-threat quarterback Xavier Lee and defensive back Tony Carter stand out.

2. MIAMI. Assessing the Hurricanes' final position in the national rankings often is like narrowing the field at the Miss America pageant. You know it looks great, but just where does it stack up against the rest of the beauties? This year, it's a knockout. Miami signed one of the program's best classes ever, highlighted by Williams, although his status is unclear because of off-field incidents; Leggett; and defensive end Rhyan Anderson. Coach Larry Coker landed 10 players ranked in the top 10 at their positions.

3. MARYLAND. Coach Ralph Friedgen quietly is building a national power, and the cornerstone for that success has been his staff's tremendous recruiting. The Terps finished in the mid-30s nationally in 2002 and 2003, and crashed the elite list this year with a No. 17 class. Maryland lost some key players on defense from this year's 10-3 squad but reloaded nicely with elite prospects such as end Trey Covington and safety Kent Hicks.

4. BOSTON COLLEGE. Coaches always are looking to upgrade speed and athleticism, but that desire was magnified for the Eagles, who join the ACC in 2005. Coach Tom O'Brien and his staff delivered a No. 24 class,

including an impact recruit in Toal. Receivers/defensive backs Brandon Robinson and Marquise Liverpool are marquee talents.

5. N.C. STATE. What this class lacks in quantity is made up for in quality. The Wolfpack signed only 18 players but still wound up with the No. 28 national ranking. Coach Chuck Amato lured more big-time talent from his old Sunshine State stomping grounds and did a good job of securing two of North Carolina's top prospects in Pressley and top 10 running back Andre Brown.

6. NORTH CAROLINA. The Tar Heels lost a lot of key in-state battles but managed to come away with a respectable No. 36 class that addressed needs and yielded a few pleasant surprises. The impact recruit is offensive lineman Calvin Darity, a Tallahassee, Fla., product who the Tar Heels stole from Florida State. They also added three talented defensive linemen from Hargrave Military Academy who should provide immediate help.

7. VIRGINIA. Coach Al Groh has done so well recruiting that fans expect top 25 classes every year. This year, the Cavaliers slipped to No. 40 but did a solid job upgrading depth and talent. Cornerback Phillip Brown should come in ready to make an impact after a year of prep school, and defensive end Olu Hall was the top high school prospect in the state.

8. VIRGINIA TECH. The Hokies' No. 41 finish won't draw much national attention, but coach Frank Beamer's staff always has done a good job of identifying and developing talent. George Bell comes to Blacksburg as the No. 12 running back in the country and a possible replacement for Kevin Jones. Receivers Eddie Royal, Justin Harper and Josh Morgan have the talent to provide an immediate boost to the passing game.

9. CLEMSON. All coaches like to accentuate the positives when reviewing their recruiting classes, but Tommy Bowden must have had mixed emotions on signing day. Coming off an impressive 9-4 season and a 27-14 triumph over Tennessee in the Peach Bowl, the Tigers should have been in a position to land a class that ranked better than No. 9 in the ACC and No. 53 nationally. Massive offensive lineman Cory Lambert is the headliner.

10. GEORGIA TECH. The Yellow Jackets' No. 56 national ranking isn't going to blow away many people, but when you focus on some of the individual triumphs, there's reason for optimism. Coach Chan Gailey landed four high-profile players who were being recruited by major programs, including stellar receiver Calvin Johnson and defensive linemen Darryl Richard, Darrell Robertson and David Brown.

11. DUKE. Coach Ted Roof's first recruiting class didn't yield as many marquee names as some of the Blue Devils' ACC rivals, but the team managed to get involved with some higher-rated prospects than in years past. Duke upgraded its speed at the skill positions and added an impact receiver in Chancellor Young.

12. WAKE FOREST. The Demon Deacons' class ranks at the bottom of the ACC, which was a disappointment. But coach Jim Grobe and his staff felt confident that they improved the team. Defensive ends Anthony Davis and Jeremy Thompson enter the program as highly-regarded prospects, and cornerback Alphonso Smith likely will get playing time in 2004. **TSN**

Rivals.com editor Bobby Burton covers recruiting for the Sporting News.

The top incoming players (ranked by position)

QUARTERBACKS

Name	Ht./Wt.	Hometown/school	College
1. Xavier Lee	6-4/200	Daytona Beach, Fla./Seabreeze	Florida State
2. Drew Weatherford	6-3/205	Land O'Lakes, Fla./Land O'Lakes	Florida State
3. Kirby Freeman	6-3/190	Brownwood, Texas/Brownwood	Miami
4. Sean Glennon	6-3/185	Centreville, Va./Westfield	Virginia Tech
5. Jordan Steffy	6-1/210	Leola, Pa./Conestoga Valley	Maryland

RUNNING BACKS

Name	Ht./Wt.	Hometown/school	College
1. Bobby Washington	6-1/200	Miami/Killian	Miami
2. Charlie Jones	5-11/200	Homestead, Fla./South Dade	Miami
3. Jamaal Edwards	6-0/202	Greenboro, N.C./Dudley	Florida State
4. Andrew Johnson	6-0/205	Pittsburgh/North Hills	Miami
5. Andre Brown	6-1/210	Greenville, N.C./Rose	N.C. State

RECEIVERS

Name	Ht./Wt.	Hometown/school	College
1. Lance Leggett	6-4/178	Arlington, Texas/Grace Prep	Miami
2. Calvin Johnson	6-4/215	Tyrone, Ga./Sandy Creek	Georgia Tech
3. Eddie Royal	5-10/170	Herndon, Va./Westfield	Virginia Tech
4. Kenny O'Neal	6-1/195	Oakland/Skyline	Florida State
5. Greg Carr	6-6/200	Citra, Fla./North Marion	Florida State

TIGHT ENDS

Name	Ht./Wt.	Hometown/school	College
1. Octavius Darby	6-4/224	Hollywood, Fla./Chaminade-Madonna	N.C. State
2. Ryan Purvis	6-4/235	Reinholds, Pa./Lancaster Catholic	Boston College
3. Tom Santi	6-5/225	Nashville/Montgomery Bell Academy	Virginia
4. Patrick Bailey	6-4/240	Elmendorf, Texas/Alamo Heights	Duke
5. Cedric Hill	6-3/206	Valdosta, Ga./Valdosta	Miami

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Name	Ht./Wt.	Hometown/school	College
1. Calvin Dartiy	6-4/275	Tallahassee, Fla./Lincoln	North Carolina
2. Carlos Feliciano	6-5/290	Elizabeth, N.J./Elizabeth	Maryland
3. Cory Lambert	6-7/290	Greenville, S.C./Greenville	Clemson
4. Jacky Claude	6-4/290	Miami/Edison	Florida State
5. Kellen Heard	6-6/335	Wharton, Texas/Wharton	Miami

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Name	Ht./Wt.	Hometown/school	College
1. DeMario Pressley	6-4/290	Greensboro, N.C./Dudley	N.C. State
2. Rhyan Anderson	6-6/265	Oak Creek, Wis./Oak Creek	Miami
3. Trey Covington	6-3/230	Bowie, Md./Eleanor Roosevelt	Maryland
4. Olu Hall	6-3/220	Fairfax, Va./Robinson	Virginia
5. Aaron Jones	6-3/270	Orlando/Edgewater	Florida State

LINEBACKERS

Name	Ht./Wt.	Hometown/school	College
1. Willie Williams	6-2/225	Miami/Carol City	Miami
2. James Bryant	6-3/240	Reading, Pa./Reading	Miami
3. Lawrence Timmons	6-3/225	Florence, S.C./Wilson	Florida State
4. Jae Thaxton	6-3/225	Hartwell, Ga./Hart County	Florida State
5. Eric Lenz	6-4/220	Frederick, Md./Urbana	Maryland

DEFENSIVE BACKS

Name	Ht./Wt.	Hometown/school	College
1. Tony Carter	5-9/175	Jacksonville/Mandarin	Florida State
2. J.R. Bryant	6-1/170	Miami/Killian	Florida State
3. Trevor Ford	6-1/187	Miami/Northwestern	Florida State
4. Lovon Ponder	6-1/190	Miami/Monsignor Pace	Miami
5. Trimane Goddard	5-11/185	Robersonville, N.C./Roanoke	North Carolina

TEAM NEEDS for 2005

BOSTON COLLEGE The Eagles will see key departures on the defensive line for the second consecutive year, so the tackle and end positions will be major targets. Quarterback and tight end also will be high priorities.

CLEMSON Coach Tommy Bowden will look for help at receiver and running back, in addition to seeking several linebackers. The Tigers signed only two linebackers for 2004 and will lose a few key contributors following this season.

DUKE The Blue Devils have major needs across the board, but quarterback will be priority No. 1 after failing to sign one in the past two classes. Running back and defensive line also will be important holes to fill.

FLORIDA STATE There aren't many glaring needs coming on the heels of the No. 3 class in the nation, but the defensive line will need to be reloaded after the departure of several players. Adding depth to the offensive line also will be a priority.

GEORGIA TECH The Yellow Jackets came up huge in addressing their defensive line needs this past year. They'll need a similar effort to upgrade the offensive line in 2005 after the expected loss of three starters. Linebacker and defensive back also will be key areas for coach Chan Gailey's staff.

MARYLAND Defense was the focus in 2004, but it will swing to offense for next year's class. The Terrapins will be in the market for a top tight end. Running back and receiver also will be important positions.

MIAMI The Canes will be loaded for the foreseeable future after finishing with top 10 classes in each of the past three years, so the need areas will be subtle. Look for receiver and offensive line to be the priorities on offense, with linebacker to headline the defensive efforts for a second consecutive year.

NORTH CAROLINA The Tar Heels are in the midst of a rebuilding effort after going 5-19 the past two years, so every position needs an infusion of talent. Most of the focus will fall on offense, with quarterback, running back and tight end holding important status.

N.C. STATE With the amazing career Philip Rivers just wrapped up, one might have expected the Wolfpack to sign a high-profile quarterback in 2004. But it didn't pan out. The position will be a major focus in next year's class with Chuck Amato selling Rivers' big numbers and NFL draft position to prospective recruits. Offensive line and defensive back also will be priorities.

VIRGINIA Defense was the Cavaliers' focus in 2004. Now, it will shift to offense. Al Groh's staff will seek to replenish its ranks at receiver and along the offensive line. The quarterback position also will loom large after Virginia failed to sign an impact player this past season.

VIRGINIA TECH The Hokies hope to reload on defense because a senior-dominated unit takes the field in 2004. The major emphasis will be at end and tackle, and defensive backs will be another priority. On offense, the line will be key.

WAKE FOREST The focus is on the offense, with the Demon Deacons targeting linemen. Quarterback and tight end also are needs for Jim Grobe's program. —*B.B.*

TOP 50 ATLANTIC COAST PROSPECTS for 2005 (listed alphabetically)

Quarterbacks

Name	Ht./Wt.	Hometown/School (college commitment)
Harrison Beck	6-3/200	Clearwater, Fla./Countryside
Greg Boone	6-4/245	Chesapeake, Va./Oscar Smith
Jonathan Crompton	6-3/205	Waynesville, N.C./Tuscola
Gene Delle Donne	6-5/225	Wilmington, Del./Salesianum
Vic Hall	5-11/185	Gretna, Va./Gretna
Greg Paulus	6-1/180	Manlius, N.Y./Christian Brothers Academy

Running backs

Name	Ht./Wt.	Hometown/School (college commitment)
Toney Baker	5-11/215	Jamestown, N.C./Ragsdale
Jason Gwaltney	6-2/220	Long Island, N.Y./North Babylon
Elan Lewis	5-9/185	Hampton, Va./Phoebus
Antone Smith	5-9/181	Pahokee, Fla./Pahokee
Maurice Wells	5-10/180	Jacksonville/Sandalwood
Tony Wright	5-10/185	Fort Valley, Ga./Peach County

Receivers

Name	Ht./Wt.	Hometown/School (college commitment)
Nyan Boateng	6-2/185	Brooklyn, N.Y./Lincoln
Josh Briscoe	6-3/170	Lawndale, N.C./Burns
Maurice Covington	6-5/195	Durham, N.C./Southern (Virginia)
Ryan Dawson	6-4/200	Parkersburg, W.Va./South
Michael Ray Garvin	5-8/170	Ramsey, N.J./Don Bosco Prep
Jessie Hester	6-0/170	Wellington, Fla./Wellington
Eric Huggins	6-3/186	Conway, S.C./Conway
Mohamed Massaquoi	6-2/181	Charlotte/Independence
James McDonald	6-3/195	Washington, D.C./Dunbar
Fred Rouse	6-3/185	Tallahassee, Fla./Lincoln
Rendrick Taylor	6-2/210	Bennettsville, S.C./Marlboro County

Tight ends

Name	Ht./Wt.	Hometown/School (college commitment)
Jonathan Hannah	6-5/265	Hope Mills, N.C./South View

Offensive linemen

Name	Ht./Wt.	Hometown/School (college commitment)
Christopher Barney	6-5/305	Miami/Northwestern
Matt Hardrick	6-5/338	Orlando/Edgewater
Kurt Mattes	6-6/260	Plymouth, Pa./Wyoming Valley West
Dave McClain	6-5/325	Doylestown, Pa./Central Bucks South
Eugene Monroe	6-7/320	Plainfield, N.J./Plainfield
Justin Schifano	6-5/300	Webster, N.Y./Schroeder (Michigan)
Chris Scott	6-5/300	Lovejoy, Ga./Lovejoy
Marcus Slocum	6-6/330	Philadelphia/St. John Neumann
Kevin Wiggins	6-7/320	Washington, D.C./Dunbar

Defensive linemen

Name	Ht./Wt.	Hometown/School (college commitment)
Spencer Adkins (E)	6-2/225	Naples, Fla./Naples
Callahan Bright (T)	6-3/320	Bryn Mar, Pa./Harriton
James McGillicuddy (T)	6-3/285	Worcester, Mass./St. John's
Justin Mincey (E)	6-5/240	Folkston, Ga./Charlton County
Geneath Moffett (E)	6-3/235	Palm Bay, Fla./Palm Bay
Kyle Moore (E)	6-7/255	Warner Robins, Ga./Houston County
Jeremy Navarre (E)	6-4/240	Joppa, Md./Joppatowne
Kyle Newell (E)	6-5/230	Bethlehem, Pa./Catholic
Kade Weston (T)	6-6/290	Red Bank, N.J./Red Bank

Linebackers

Name	Ht./Wt.	Hometown/School (college commitment)
Tray Blackmon	6-0/192	LaGrange, Ga./LaGrange
Brian Cushing	6-3/225	Oradell, N.J./Bergen Catholic
Darius Dewberry	6-4/220	Fort Valley, Ga./Peach County
Derek Nicholson	6-2/228	Winston-Salem, N.C./Mt. Tabor

Defensive backs

Name	Ht./Wt.	Hometown/School (college commitment)
Victor Harris	6-0/185	Highland Springs, Va./Highland Springs
Kenneth Phillips	6-2/195	Miami/Carol City

Athletes

Name	Ht./Wt.	Hometown/School (college commitment)
C.J. Byrd	6-3/185	North Augusta, S.C./North Augusta
Derrick Williams	6-1/187	Greenbelt, Md./Eleanor Roosevelt

TOP 100 PROSPECTS FOR 2005

Quarterbacks

Name	Ht./Wt.	Hometown/School (college commitment)
Harrison Beck	6-3/200	Clearwater, Fla./Countryside
Jake Christensen	6-2/195	Lockport, Ill./Lockport
Jonathan Crompton	6-3/205	Waynesville, N.C./Tuscola
Vic Hall	5-11/185	Gretna, Va./Gretna (Virginia)
Greg Paulus	6-1/180	Manlius, N.Y./Christian Brothers Academy (Duke)
Ryan Perrilloux	6-3/200	Reserve, La./East St. John
Mark Sanchez	6-4/200	Mission Viejo, Calif./Mission Viejo

Running backs

Name	Ht./Wt.	Hometown/School (college commitment)
Toney Baker	5-11/215	Jamestown, N.C./Ragsdale
Jamaal Charles	6-1/185	Port Arthur, Texas/Memorial
LaMarcus Coker	5-11/180	Antioch, Tenn./Antioch (Tennessee)
Kevin Grady	5-10/230	E. Grand Rapids, Mich./E. Grand Rapids (Michigan)
Maurice Greer	5-11/185	Denver/Mullen
Elan Lewis	5-9/185	Hampton, Va./Phoebus
Marlon Lucky	6-0/202	North Hollywood, Calif./North Hollywood
Darren McFadden	6-0/200	Pulaski, Ark./Oak Grove
Rashard Mendenhall	6-0/190	Skokie, Ill./Niles West (Illinois)
Antonio Robinson	6-2/195	Winnfield, La./Winnfield (LSU)
Antone Smith	5-9/181	Pahokee, Fla./Pahokee
Jonathan Stewart	5-10/215	Olympia, Wash./Timberline
Maurice Wells	5-10/180	Jacksonville/Sandalwood
Tony Wright	5-10/185	Fort Valley, Ga./Peach County

Wide receivers

Name	Ht./Wt.	Hometown/School (college commitment)
Josh Briscoe	6-3/170	Lawndale, N.C./Burns
Michael Ray Garvin	5-8/170	Ramsey, N.J./Don Bosco Prep
Jessie Hester Jr.	6-0/170	Wellington, Fla./Wellington
Eric Huggins	6-3/186	Conway, S.C./Conway
Desean Jackson	5-11/170	Long Beach, Calif./Long Beach Poly
Malcolm Kelly	6-4/200	Longview, Texas/Longview
Fred Rouse	6-3/185	Tallahassee, Fla./Lincoln
Rendrick Taylor	6-2/210	Bennettsville, S.C./Marlboro County
Patrick Turner	6-5/210	Nashville/Goodpasture
Austin Usher	6-4/200	Los Angeles/Jefferson

Tight ends

Name	Ht./Wt.	Hometown/School (college commitment)
Dajleon Farr	6-6/235	Galena Park, Texas/North Shore
Jonathan Hannah	6-5/265	Hope Mills, N.C./South View

Offensive linemen

Name	Ht./Wt.	Hometown/School (college commitment)
Christopher Barney	6-5/305	Miami/Northwestern
Kevin Bemoll	6-5/300	Mission Viejo, Calif./Mission Viejo
Ciron Black	6-5/325	Tyler, Texas/Lee
Alex Boone	6-8/290	Lakewood, Ohio/St. Edwards (Ohio State)
Dan Doering	6-6/280	Barrington, Ill./Barrington
Matt Hardrick	6-5/338	Orlando/Edgewater
Aleksey Lanis	6-6/300	Los Angeles/Crenshaw
Kurt Mattes	6-6/260	Plymouth, Pa./Wyoming Valley West
Eugene Monroe	6-7/320	Plainfield, N.J./Plainfield
Michael Oher	6-5/330	Memphis/Briarcrest Christian
Rodney Picou	6-4/300	Moreno Valley, Calif./Canyon Springs
Dace Richardson	6-6/300	Wheaton, Ill./Wheaton South
Justin Schifano	6-5/300	Webster, N.Y./Schroeder (Michigan)
Chris Scott	6-5/300	Lovejoy, Ga./(Lovejoy)
Jesse White	6-3/290	Denver/Mullen (UCLA)
Kevin Wiggins	6-7/320	Washington, D.C./Dunbar
Reginald Youngblood	6-5/295	Houston/Washington

Defensive ends

Name	Ht./Wt.	Hometown/School (college commitment)
Spencer Adkins	5-11/225	Naples, Fla./Naples
Ricky Jean-Francois	6-3/242	Miami/Carol City
Al Jones	6-3/240	New Orleans/St. Augustine
Justin Mincey	6-5/240	Folkston, Ga./Charlton County
Geneath Moffett	6-3/235	Palm Bay, Fla./Palm Bay
Kyle Moore	6-7/255	Warner Robins, Ga./Houston County
Kyle Newell	6-5/230	Bethlehem, Pa./Catholic
J.B. Paxson	6-3/260	Greenwood, Ind./Center Grove
Marcus Shavers	6-3/235	Allen, Texas/Allen
Averel Spicer	6-2/260	Rancho Cucamonga, Calif./Rancho Cucamonga
Ekom Udofia	6-3/280	Scottsdale, Ariz./Chaparral

Defensive tackles

Name	Ht./Wt.	Hometown/School (college commitment)
Callahan Bright	6-3/320	Bryn Mar, Pa./Harriton
DeMarcus Granger	6-3/325	Dallas/Kimball
James McGillicuddy	6-3/285	Worcester, Mass./St. John's
James McKinney	6-4/255	Louisville, Ky./Central (Michigan)
Jerrell Powe	6-3/322	Waynesboro, Miss./Wayne County
Matt Reynolds	6-6/270	Provo, Utah/Timpview
Terrance Taylor	6-1/285	Muskegon, Mich./Muskegon
Kade Weston	6-6/290	Red Bank, N.J./Red Bank
Vincent Williams	6-5/275	Dallas/Carter

Linebackers

Name	Ht./Wt.	Hometown/School (college commitment)
Travis Beckum	6-5/220	Oak Creek, Wis./Oak Creek
Tray Blackmon	6-0/192	LaGrange, Ga,/LaGrange
Luthur Brown	6-3/227	Lakewood, Calif./Lakewood
Chris Collins	6-1/230	Texarkana, Texas/Texarkana (Texas)
Brian Cushing	6-3/225	Oradell, N.J./Bergen Catholic
Darius Dewberry	6-4/220	Fort Valley, Ga./Peach County
Phillip Dillard	6-2/230	Jenks, Okla./Jenks
Jerome Hayes	6-2/225	Bayonne, N.J./Bayonne
Rey Maualuga	6-2/235	Eureka, Calif./Eureka
Derek Nicholson	6-2/228	Winston-Salem, N.C./Mt. Tabor
Ryan Reynolds	6-2/220	Las Vegas/Bishop Gorman

Defensive backs

Name	Ht./Wt.	Hometown/School (college commitment)
Victor Harris	6-0/185	Highland Springs, Va./Highland Springs
Leon Jackson	6-3/200	Pasco, Wash./Pasco
Chris Keys	6-2/210	Port Barre, La./Port Barre (LSU)
Justin King	6-0/180	Pittsburgh/Gateway
Adam Myers-White	6-4/190	Hamilton, Ohio/Hamilton
Jamario O'Neal	6-1/190	Cleveland/Glenville (Ohio State)
Kenneth Phillips	6-2/195	Miami/Carol City
Melvin Rice	5-11/185	Chicago/Morgan Park
Reggie Smith	6-0/188	Edmond, Okla./Santa Fe
Syd'Quan Thompson	5-10/170	Sacramento/Grant

Athletes

Name	Ht./Wt.	Hometown/School (college commitment)
Antonio Bass	6-2/190	Jackson, Mich./Jackson
C.J. Byrd	6-3/185	North Augusta, S.C./North Augusta
Todd Cox	6-2/195	Memphis/Harding Academy
Byron Eaton	5-11/210	Dallas/Lincoln
Tim Holloway	6-4/215	Seminary, Miss./Seminary
Henry Melton	6-3/230	Grapevine, Texas/Grapevine
Todd Walker	6-2/185	Pflugerville, Texas/Pflugerville
Aaron Ware	6-0/180	Westlake Village, Calif./Oaks Christian
Derrick Williams	6-1/187	Greenbelt, Md./Eleanor Roosevelt

Team	Sept. 4	Sept. 11	Sept. 18	Sept. 25	Oct. 2	Oct. 9	Oct. 16	Oct. 23	Oct. 30	Nov. 6	Nov. 13	Nov. 20	Nov. 27
CLEMSON	Wake Forest	Ga. Tech	at Texas A&M	at Florida State		at Virginia (Oct. 7)	Utah State	Maryland	N.C. State	at Miami	at Duke	South Carolina	
DUKE	at Navy	at Connecticut	at Va. Tech	Maryland	The Citadel		at Ga. Tech	Virginia	at Wake Forest	at Florida State	Clemson	North Carolina	
FLORIDA STATE	at Miami (Sept. 6)		UAB	Clemson	North Carolina	at Syracuse	Virginia	at Wake Forest	at Maryland	Duke	at N.C. State (Nov. 11)	Florida	
GEORGIA TECH	Samford	at Clemson	at North Carolina		Miami	at Maryland	Duke		Va. Tech (Oct. 28)	at N.C. State	Connecticut	Virginia	at Georgia
MARYLAND	N. Illinois	Temple	at West Virginia	at Duke		Ga. Tech	N.C. State	at Clemson	Florida State	at Virginia		at Va. Tech (Nov. 18)	Wake Forest
MIAMI	Florida State (Sept. 6)		La. Tech	at Houston (Sept. 23)	at Ga. Tech		Louisville (Oct. 14)	at N.C. State	at North Carolina	Clemson	at Virginia	Wake Forest	Va. Tech (Dec. 4)
NORTH CAROLINA	William & Mary	at Virginia	Ga. Tech	Louisville	at Florida State	N.C. State	at Utah		Miami	Va. Tech	at Wake Forest	at Duke	
N.C. STATE	Richmond		Ohio State	at Va. Tech	Wake Forest	at North Carolina	at Maryland	Miami	at Clemson	Ga. Tech	Florida State (Nov. 11)		vs. E. Carolina (at Charlotte)
VIRGINIA	at Temple	North Carolina	Akron	Syracuse		Clemson (Oct. 7)	at Florida State	at Duke		Maryland	Miami	at Ga. Tech	at Va. Tech
VIRGINIA TECH	vs. USC (Aug. 28) (at Landover, Md.)	W. Michigan	Duke	N.C. State	West Virginia	at Wake Forest	Florida A&M		at Ga. Tech (Oct. 28)	at North Carolina		Maryland (Nov. 18)	Virginia
WAKE FOREST	at Clemson	at East Carolina	North Carolina A&T	Boston College	at N.C. State	Va. Tech		Florida State	Duke		North Carolina	at Miami	at Miami (Dec. 4)
AIR FORCE	California	E. Washington	at UNLV	at Utah	Navy (Sept. 30)	New Mexico		BYU	at Wyoming	at Army	San Diego State	Colorado State	at Maryland
AKRON	at Penn State	Mid. Tennessee	at Virginia	at Kent State (Sept. 23)	at N. Illinois	Buffalo	at C. Florida	Ball State		Marshall (Nov. 5)	at Ohio	Miami	
ALABAMA	Utah State	Mississippi	W. Carolina	at Arkansas	South Carolina	at Kentucky	Southern Miss	at Tennessee		Miss. State	at LSU	Auburn	
ARIZONA	N. Arizona	Utah	Wisconsin		Washington State	at UCLA	at Oregon	California	Oregon State	at Washington	at USC		Arizona State (Nov. 26)
ARIZONA STATE	UTEP (Sept. 2)	at Northwestern	Iowa	Oregon State	at Oregon		at USC	UCLA	at California	Stanford	Washington State		at Arizona (Nov. 26)
ARKANSAS	N. Mexico State	Texas	La.-Monroe	Alabama	at Florida		at Auburn	Georgia		at S.Carolina	Mississippi	at Miss. State	LSU
ARKANSAS STATE	at Missouri	at LSU	Memphis	at La.-Monroe	at Mississippi	at Mid. Tennessee	Troy State	at La.-Lafayette		at Idaho	Utah State (Nov. 11)	North Texas (Nov.18)	
ARMY		Louisville	at Houston	at Connecticut	TCU	Cincinnati	at S. Florida		at East Carolina	Air Force	at Tulane	UAB	vs. Navy (Dec. 4) (at Philadelphia)
AUBURN	La.-Monroe	at Miss. State	LSU	The Citadel	at Tennessee	La. Tech	Arkansas	Kentucky	at Mississippi		Georgia	at Alabama	
BALL STATE	Boston College (Sept. 2)	at Purdue	at Missouri	W. Michigan	at Toledo	E. Michigan	at Bowling Green	at Akron	N. Illinois		C. Florida	at C. Michigan	
BAYLOR	at UAB	Texas State		North Texas	at Texas	Missouri	at Nebraska	Iowa State	Texas A&M	at Texas Tech	at Oklahoma State	Oklahoma	
BOISE STATE	Idaho	Oregon State	at UTEP	BYU	SMU		at Tulsa	Fresno State	Hawaii		at San Jose State	La. Tech	at Nevada
BOSTON COLLEGE	at Ball State (Sept. 2)	Penn State	Connecticut (Sept. 17)	at Wake Forest	Massachusetts		at Pittsburgh	at Notre Dame		Rutgers	at West Virginia	at Temple	Syracuse
BOWLING GREEN	at Oklahoma	SE Missouri State		at N. Illinois (Sept. 24)	at Temple	at C. Michigan	Ball State	at Ohio	E. Michigan	W. Michigan	Marshall	at Toledo (Nov. 23)	
BUFFALO	at E. Michigan (Sept. 2)	Syracuse	at Nevada	at Ohio	C. Florida	at Akron	Miami	at Marshall		Kent State	C. Michigan	at Connecticut	
BYU	USC		at Stanford	at Boise State	at Colorado State	UNLV (Oct. 8)	Wyoming	at Air Force	Notre Dame	San Diego State	New Mexico	at Utah	
CALIFORNIA	at Air Force	N. Mexico State	at Southern Miss		at Oregon State	at USC	UCLA	at Arizona	Arizona State	Oregon	at Washington	Stanford	
CENTRAL FLORIDA	at Wisconsin	West Virginia	at Penn State		at Buffalo	N. Illinois	Akron	at Miami	at Marshall	Ohio	at Ball State	Kent State (Nov. 23)	
CENTRAL MICHIGAN	at Indiana	at Michigan State	SE Missouri State		Kent State	Bowling Green	at N. Illinois	at Toledo	W. Michigan	at E. Michigan	at Buffalo	Ball State	
CINCINNATI	at Ohio State	Miami (Ohio)	at Syracuse	at East Carolina	UAB	at Army		Memphis	TCU	at Southern Miss		S. Florida	at Louisville
COLORADO	Colorado State	vs. Washington State (at Seattle)	North Texas		at Missouri	Oklahoma State	Iowa State	at Texas A&M	Texas	at Kansas	Kansas State		at Nebraska (Nov. 26)
COLORADO STATE	at Colorado	at USC	Minnesota	Montana State	BYU		at San Diego State	Wyoming (Oct. 22)	New Mexico	at Utah	UNLV	at Air Force	
CONNECTICUT	Murray State	Duke	at Bos. College (Sept. 17)	Army			West Virginia (Oct.13)	Temple	at Syracuse		at Ga. Tech	Buffalo	at Rutgers (Nov. 25)
EAST CAROLINA	at West Virginia	Wake Forest		Cincinnati	at Louisville	Tulane		at Southern Miss	Army	at Houston	at S. Florida	Memphis	vs. N.C. State (at Charlotte)
EASTERN MICHIGAN	Buffalo (Sept. 2)	at Florida	Toledo	E. Illinois	Idaho	at Ball State	at W. Michgian		at Bowling Green	C. Michigan	at Kent State	N. Illinois	
FLORIDA	Mid. Tennessee	E. Michigan	at Tennessee	Kentucky	Arkansas	LSU		at Miss. State	vs. Georgia (at Jacksonville)	at Vanderbilt	South Carolina	at Florida State	
FRESNO STATE	at Washington (Sept. 5)	at Kansas State	Portland State		at La. Tech	UTEP		at Boise State	SMU	at Rice	Hawaii	Nevada	at S. Jose State
GEORGIA	Ga. Southern	at South Carolina	Marshall		LSU	Tennessee	Vanderbilt	at Arkansas	vs. Florida (at Jacksonville)	at Kentucky	at Auburn		Ga. Tech

Team	Sept. 4	Sept. 11	Sept. 18	Sept. 25	Oct. 2	Oct. 9	Oct. 16	Oct. 23	Oct. 30	Nov. 6	Nov. 13	Nov. 20	Nov. 27
HAWAII	Florida Atlantic		at Rice		Tulsa	Nevada	at UTEP	San Jose State	at Boise State	La. Tech	at Fresno State	Idaho	Northwestern Michigan State (Dec. 4)
HOUSTON	at Rice	at Oklahoma	Army	Miami, Fla. (Sept. 23)	at Memphis	at So. Miss (Oct. 7)		at TCU	Tulane	East Carolina	at UAB	Louisville	
IDAHO	at Boise State	at Utah State	Washington State	at Oregon	at E. Michigan	La.-Monroe	La.-Lafayette	at Mid. Tennessee	at Troy State	Arkansas State	at North Texas	at Hawaii	
ILLINOIS	Florida A&M	UCLA	W. Michigan	Purdue	at Wisconsin	at Michigan State	Michigan	at Minnesota	Iowa	Indiana		at Northwestern	
INDIANA	C. Michigan	at Oregon	at Kentucky	Michigan State	Michigan	at Northwestern		at Ohio State	Minnesota	at Illinois	Penn State	at Purdue	
IOWA	Kent State	Iowa State	at Arizona State	at Michigan	Michigan State		Ohio State	at Penn State	at Illinois	Purdue	at Minnesota	Wisconsin	
IOWA STATE	N. Iowa	at Iowa	N. Illinois		at Oklahoma State	Texas A&M	at Colorado	at Baylor	Kansas	Nebraska		at Kansas State	Missouri
KANSAS	Tulsa	Toledo	at Northwestern	Texas Tech	at Nebraska	Kansas State		at Oklahoma	at Iowa State	Colorado	Texas	at Missouri	
KANSAS STATE	W. Kentucky	Fresno State	La.-Lafayette		at Texas A&M	at Kansas	Oklahoma	Nebraska	Texas Tech	at Missouri	at Colorado	Iowa State	
KENT STATE	at Iowa	Liberty	at Rutgers	Akron (Sept. 23)	at C. Michigan	at Miami	Marshall		Ohio	at Buffalo	E. Michigan	at C. Florida	
KENTUCKY	at Louisville (Sept. 5)		Indiana	at Florida	Ohio	Alabama	South Carolina	at Auburn	at Miss. State	Georgia	Vanderbilt		at Tennessee
LA.-LAFAYETTE	Northwestern State	at La. Tech	at Kansas State	Mid. Tennessee	at Fla. International	at N. Mexico State	at Idaho	Arkansas State		North Texas	Troy State	at La. Monroe	
LA.-MONROE	at Auburn		at Arkansas	Arkansas State	at Wyoming	at Idaho	Fla. International	at Fla. Atlantic	at North Texas	Utah State	at Mid. Tennessee	La.-Lafayette	
LA. TECH		La.-Lafayette	at Miami (Fla.)	at Tennessee	Fresno State	at Auburn	at SMU	UTEP	Nevada	at Hawaii	Tulsa	at Boise State	at Rice
LOUISVILLE	Kentucky (Sept. 5)	at Army	at Tulane	at North Carolina	East Carolina		at Miami, Fla. (Oct. 14)	S. Florida (Oct. 22)		at Memphis (TBA)	TCU (TBA)	at Houston	Cincinnati
LSU	Oregon State	Arkansas State	at Auburn	Miss. State	at Georgia	at Florida		Troy State	Vanderbilt		Alabama	Mississippi	at Arkansas
MARSHALL	Troy State	at Ohio State	at Georgia	Maimi (Sept. 29)		at Ohio	at Kent State	Buffalo	C. Florida	at Akron (Nov. 5)	at Bowling Green	W. Michigan	
MEMPHIS	at Mississippi	Chattanooga	at Arkansas State	at UAB	Houston		Tulane	at Cincinnati		Louisville (TBA)	Southern Miss	at East Carolina	at S. Florida
MIAMI (OHIO)	at Michigan	at Cincinnati	Ohio	at Marshall (Sept. 29)		Kent State	at Buffalo	C. Florida	Toledo (Nov. 3)			at Akron	
MICHIGAN	Miami (Ohio)	at Notre Dame	San Diego State	Iowa	at Indiana	Minnesota	at Illinois	at Purdue	Michigan State		Northwestern	at Ohio State	
MICHIGAN STATE	at Rutgers	C. Michigan	Notre Dame	at Indiana	at Iowa	Illinois	Minnesota		at Michigan	Ohio State	Wisconsin	at Penn State	at Hawaii (Dec. 4)
MIDDLE TENNESSEE	at Florida	at Akron	Fla. Atlantic	at La.-Lafayette	at North Texas	Arkansas State		Idaho	Utah State	at N. Mexico State	La.-Monroe	at Troy State	
MINNESOTA	Toledo (Sept. 5)	Illinois State	at Colorado State	Northwestern	Penn State	at Michigan	at Michigan State	Illinois	at Indiana	at Wisconsin	Iowa		
MISSISSIPPI	Memphis	at Alabama	Vanderbilt	at Wyoming	Arkansas State	at South Carolina	Tennessee		Auburn		at Arkansas	at LSU	Miss. State
MISSISSIPPI STATE	Tulane	Auburn	Maine	at LSU	at Vanderbilt	UAB		Florida	Kentucky	at Alabama		Arkansas	at Mississippi
MISSOURI	Arkansas State	at Troy State	Ball State		Colorado	at Baylor	at Texas	Oklahoma State	at Nebraska	Kansas State		Kansas	at Iowa State
NAVY	Duke	Northeastern	at Tulsa	Vanderbilt	at Air Force (Sept. 30)		vs. Notre Dame	Rice	Delaware	at Tulane		Rutgers	vs. Army (Dec. 4) (at Philadelphia)
NEBRASKA	W. Illinois	Southern Miss	at Pittsburgh		Kansas	at Texas Tech	Baylor	at Kansas State	Missouri	at Iowa State	at Oklahoma		Colorado (Nov. 26)
NEVADA	Sacramento State	at San Diego State	Buffalo		at UNLV	at Hawaii	Rice	Tulsa	at La. Tech	San Jose State	at SMU	at Fresno State	Boise State
NEW MEXICO	Washington St. (Sept. 3)	Texas Tech	at Oregon State	at N. Mexico State	Utah	at Air Force	at UNLV	San Diego State	at Colorado State		at BYU	Wyoming	
NEW MEXICO STATE	at Arkansas	at California	Troy State	New Mexico	at UTEP	La.-Lafayette		at North Texas	Fla. International	Mid. Tennessee	at Fla. Atlantic	at Utah State	
NORTH TEXAS	at Texas	Florida Atlantic	at Colorado	at Baylor	Mid. Tennessee	at Utah State		N. Mexico State	La.-Monroe	at La.-Lafayette	Idaho	at Arkansas St. (Nov. 18)	
NORTHERN ILLINOIS	at Maryland	Southern Illinois	at Iowa State	Bowling Green (Sept. 24)	Akron	at C. Florida	C. Michigan	at W. Michigan	at Ball State		Toledo (Nov. 10)	at E. Michigan	
NORTHWESTERN	at TCU (Sept. 2)	Arizona State	Kansas	at Minnesota	Ohio State	Indiana		at Wisconsin	Purdue	at Penn State	at Michigan	Illinois	at Hawaii
NOTRE DAME		Michigan	at Michigan State	Washington	Purdue	Stanford	vs. Navy	Boston College	at BYU	at Tennessee	Pittsburgh		at USC
OHIO	VMI (Sept. 2)	at Pittsburgh	at Miami	Buffalo	at Kentucky	Marshall	at Toledo	Bowling Green	at Kent State	at C. Florida	Akron		
OHIO STATE	Cincinnati	Marshall	at N.C. State		at Northwestern	Wisconsin	at Iowa	Indiana	Penn State	at Michigan State	at Purdue	Michigan	
OKLAHOMA	Bowling Green	Houston	Oregon		Texas Tech	vs. Texas	at Kansas State	Kansas	at Oklahoma State	at Texas A&M	Nebraska	at Baylor	
OKLAHOMA STATE	at UCLA	Tulsa	SMU		Iowa State	at Colorado	Texas A&M	at Missouri	Oklahoma	at Texas	Baylor		at Texas Tech
OREGON		Indiana	at Oklahoma	Idaho	Arizona State	at Washington State	Arizona	at Stanford	Washington	at California	UCLA	at Oregon State	
OREGON STATE	at LSU	at Boise State	New Mexico	at Arizona State	California		at Washington	Washington State	at Arizona	USC	at Stanford	Oregon	
PENN STATE	Akron	at Boston College	C. Florida	at Wisconsin	at Minnesota	Purdue		Iowa	at Ohio State	Northwestern	at Indiana	Michigan State	

Team	Sept. 4	Sept. 11	Sept. 18	Sept. 25	Oct. 2	Oct. 9	Oct. 16	Oct. 23	Oct. 30	Nov. 6	Nov. 13	Nov. 20	Nov. 27
PITTSBURGH	at S. Florida	Ohio	Nebraska	Furman	at Connecticut (Sept.30)	at Temple	Boston College	Rutgers		at Syracuse	at Notre Dame		W.Virginia (Nov.25)
PURDUE	Syracuse (Sept. 5)	Ball State		at Illinois	at Notre Dame	at Penn State	Wisconsin	Michigan	at Northwestern	at Iowa	Ohio State	Indiana	
RICE	Houston		Hawaii	at Texas	at San Jose State	SMU	at Nevada	at Navy	at Tulsa	Fresno State	at UTEP		La. Tech
RUTGERS	Michigan State	New Hampshire	Kent State		at Syracuse	at Vanderbilt	Temple	at Pittsburgh	West Virginia	at Boston College		at Navy	Connecticut (Nov. 25)
SAN DIEGO STATE	San Jose State	Nevada	at Michigan		at UCLA	at Wyoming	Colorado State	at New Mexico	Utah	at BYU	at Air Force	UNLV	
SAN JOSE STATE	at San Diego State	at Stanford	Morgan State	at SMU	Rice	at Washington		at Hawaiii	UTEP	at Nevada	Boise State	at Tulsa	Fresno State
SMU	Texas Tech	at TCU	at Oklahoma State	San Jose State	at Boise State	at Rice	La. Tech		at Fresno State	Tulsa	Nevada	at UTEP	
SOUTH CAROLINA	at Vanderbilt	Georgia	S. Florida	Troy State	at Alabama	Mississippi	at Kentucky		Tennessee	Arkansas	at Florida	at Clemson	
SOUTH FLORIDA	Pittsburgh	Tennessee Tech	at South Carolina	at TCU	Southern Miss		Army	at Louisville (Oct. 22)		at UAB	East Carolina	at Cincinnati	Memphis
SOUTHERN MISS		at Nebraska	California	at Tulane	at S. Florida	Houston (Oct. 7)	at Albama	East Carolina		Cincinnati	at Memphis	at TCU	UAB
STANFORD		San Jose State	BYU	USC	Washington	at Notre Dame	at Washington State	Oregon	at UCLA	at Arizona State	Oregon State	at California	
SYRACUSE	at Purdue (Sept.5)	at Buffalo	Cincinnati	at Virginia	Rutgers	Florida State		W. Virginia (Oct. 20/21)		Connecticut	Pittsburgh	at Temple	at Boston College (Nov.27)
TCU	Northwestern (Sept.2)	SMU	at Texas Tech	S. Florida	Army		at UAB	Houston	at Cincinnati		at Louisville (TBA)	Southern Miss	Tulane
TEMPLE	Virginia	at Maryland	Florida A&M	at Toledo	Bowling Green	Pittsburgh	at Rutgers	at Connecticut		at West Virginia	Syracuse	Boston College	
TENNESSEE	UNLV		Florida	La. Tech	Auburn	at Georgia	at Mississippi	Alabama	at South Carolina	Notre Dame		at Vanderbilt	Kentucky
TEXAS	North Texas	at Arkansas		Rice	Baylor	vs. Oklahoma	Missouri	at Texas Tech	at Colorado	Oklahoma State	at Kansas		Texas A&M (Nov. 26)
TEXAS A&M	at Utah (Sept. 2)	Wyoming	Clemson		Kansas State	at Iowa State	at Oklahoma State	Colorado	at Baylor	Oklahoma	Texas Tech		at Texas (Nov. 26)
TEXAS TECH	at SMU	at New Mexico	TCU	at Kansas	at Oklahoma	Nebraska		Texas	at Kansas State	Baylor	at Texas A&M		Oklahoma State
TOLEDO	at Minnesota (Sept. 5)	at Kansas	at E. Michigan	Temple	Ball State	at W. Michigan	Ohio	C. Michigan		at Miami (Nov. 3)	at N. Illinois (Nov. 10)	Bowling Green (Nov. 23)	
TROY STATE	at Marshall	Missouri	at N. Mexico State	at South Carolina	Utah State		at Arkansas State	at LSU	Idaho	Florida Atlantic	at La.-Lafayette	Mid. Tennessee	
TULANE	at Miss. State	Florida A&M	Louisville	Southern Miss		at East Carolina	at Memphis	UAB	at Houston	Navy	Army		at TCU
TULSA	at Kansas	at Oklahoma State	Navy	SW Missouri State	at Hawaii		Boise State	at Nevada	Rice	at SMU	at La. Tech	San Jose State	UTEP
UAB	Baylor		at Florida State	Memphis	at Cincinnati	at Miss. State	TCU	at Tulane		S. Florida	Houston	at Army	at Southern Miss
UCLA	Oklahoma State	at Illinois	at Washington		San Diego State	Arizona	at California	at Arizona State	Stanford	Washington State	at Oregon		USC (Dec. 4)
UNLV	at Tennessee	at Wisconsin	Air Force	Utah State	Nevada	at BYU	New Mexico	at Utah		Wyoming	at Colorado State	at San Diego State	
USC	vs. Va. Tech (Aug. 28) (at Landover, Md.) at BYU (Sept. 4)	Colorado State		at Stanford		California	Arizona State	Washington	at Washington State	at Oregon State	Arizona		Notre Dame at UCLA (Dec. 4)
UTAH	Texas A&M (Sept.2)	at Arizona	at Utah State	Air Force	at New Mexico		North Carolina	UNLV	at San Diego State	Colorado State	at Wyoming	BYU	
UTAH STATE	at Alabama	Idaho	Utah	at UNLV	at Troy State	North Texas	at Clemson		at Mid. Tennessee	at La.-Monroe	at Arkansas State	Nerw Mexico State	
UTEP	at Arizona St. (Sept.2)	Weber State	Boise State		N. Mexico State	at Fresno State	Hawaii	at La. Tech	at San Jose State		Rice	SMU	at Tulsa
VANDERBILT	South Carolina		at Mississippi	at Navy	Miss. State	Rutgers	at Georgia	E. Kentucky	at LSU	Florida	at Kentucky	Tennessee	
WASHINGTON	Fresno State (Sept.5)		UCLA	at Notre Dame	at Stanford	San Jose State	Oregon State	at USC	at Oregon	Arizona	California	at Washington State	
WASHINGTON STATE	at New Mexico (Sept.3)	Colorado (at Seattle)	Idaho		at Arizona	Oregon	Stanford	at Oregon State	USC	at UCLA	at Arizona State	Washington	
WEST VIRGINIA	East Carolina	at C. Florida	Maryland	James Madison	at Va. Tech		at Connecticut (Oct. 13)	Syracuse (Oct. 20/21)	at Rutgers	Temple	Boston College		at Pittsburgh (Nov. 25)
WESTERN MICHIGAN	Tenn. Martin (Sept. 2)	at Va. Tech	at Illinois	at Ball State		Toledo	E. Michigan	N. Illinois	at C. Michigan	at Bowling Green	Miami	at Marshall	
WISCONSIN	C. Florida	UNLV	at Arizona	Penn State	Illinois	at Ohio State	at Purdue	Northwestern		Minnesota	at Michigan State	at Iowa	
WYOMING	Appalachian State	at Texas A&M		Mississippi	La.-Monroe	San Diego State	at BYU	at Colorado St. (Oct. 22)	Air Force	at UNLV	Utah	at New Mexico	

Some dates are subject to change.

Bowl schedule

(Times, dates subject to change)

Bowl	Date	Site	Time (ET), TV	Matchup
Orange	1/4/05	Miami	8 p.m., ABC	BCS No. 1 vs. BCS No. 2
Sugar	1/3/05	New Orleans	8 p.m., ABC	Bowl Championship Series
Fiesta	1/1/05	Tempe, Ariz.	8:30 p.m., ABC	Bowl Championship Series
Rose	1/1/05	Pasadena, Calif.	5 p.m., ABC	Pac-10 No. 1 vs. Big Ten No. 1
Capital One	1/1/05	Orlando	1 p.m., ABC	Big Ten No. 2 vs. SEC No. 2
Cotton	1/1/05	Dallas	11 a.m., FOX	Big 12 No. 2 vs. SEC or Big East at-large or Notre Dame
Gator	1/1/05	Jacksonville	12:30 p.m., NBC	Big East No. 2 or Notre Dame vs. ACC No. 2
Outback	1/1/05	Tampa	11 a.m., ESPN	Big Ten No. 3 vs. SEC No. 3
Liberty	12/31/04	Memphis	3:30 p.m., ESPN	Mountain West No. 1 vs. C-USA No. 1
Music City	12/31/04	Nashville	Noon, ESPN	Big Ten vs. SEC
Peach	12/31/04	Atlanta	7:30 p.m., ESPN	ACC No. 3 vs. SEC No. 4
Sun	12/31/04	El Paso, Texas	2 p.m., CBS	Pac-10 No. 3 vs. Big Ten No. 5
Continental Tire	12/30/04	Charlotte	1 p.m., ESPN	Big East vs. ACC
Emerald	12/30/04	San Francisco	4:30 p.m., ESPN2	Pac-10 No. 6 vs. Mountain West No. 3
Holiday	12/30/04	San Diego	8 p.m., ESPN	Pac-10 No. 2 vs. Big 12 No. 3
Houston	12/30/04	Houston	3:30 p.m., ESPN	SEC vs. Big 12
Alamo	12/29/04	San Antonio	8 p.m., ESPN	Big Ten No. 4 vs. Big 12 No. 4
Silicon Valley	12/29/04	San Jose, Calif.	11 p.m., ESPN2	Pac-10 No. 7 vs. WAC TBA
Independence	12/28/04	Shreveport, La.	6:30 p.m., ESPN	SEC vs. Big 12
Insight	12/28/04	Phoenix	9:30 p.m., ESPN	Pac-10 No. 4 vs. Big East No. 3
Motor City	12/27/04	Detroit	5:30 p.m., ESPN	Big Ten No. 7 vs. MAC No. 2
MPC Computers	12/27/04	Boise, Idaho	2 p.m., ESPN	WAC vs. ACC No. 6
Hawaii	12/24/04	Honolulu	7.p.m., ESPN	WAC vs. C-USA
Fort Worth	12/23/04	Fort Worth, Texas	6:30 p.m., ESPN	Big 12 No. 8 vs. C-USA No. 6
Las Vegas	12/23/04	Las Vegas	9:30 p.m., ESPN	Pac-10 No. 5 vs. Mountain West No. 2
GMAC	12/22/04	Mobile, Ala.	8 p.m., ESPN	C-USA No. 2 or 3 vs. MAC No. 1 or WAC No. 1
Tangerine	12/21/04	Orlando	7:30 p.m., ESPN	ACC vs. Big 12
New Orleans	12/14/04	New Orleans	8 p.m., ESPN2	Sun Belt No. 1 vs. C-USA No. 4

2003 Bowl results

Bowl	Score
Sugar	LSU 21, Oklahoma 14
Fiesta	Ohio State 35, Kansas State 28
Rose	Southern California 28, Michigan 14
Orange	Miami (Fla.) 16, Florida State 14
New Orleans	Memphis 27, North Texas 17
GMAC	Miami (Ohio) 49, Louisville 28
TangerineL	N.C. State 56, Kansas 26
Fort Worth	Boise State 34, TCU 31
Las Vegas	Oregon State 55, New Mexico 14
Hawaii	Hawaii 54, Houston 48
Motor City	Bowling Green 28, Northwestern 24
Insight	California 52, Virginia Tech 49
Continental Tire	Virginia 23, Pittsburgh 16
Alamo	Nebraska 17, Michigan State 3
Houston	Texas Tech 38, Navy 14
Silicon Valley	Fresno State 17, UCLA 9
Holiday	Washington State 28, Texas 20
Music City	Auburn 28, Wisconsin 14
Sun	Minnesota 31, Oregon 30
Liberty	Utah 17, Southern Mississippi 0
Independence	Arkansas 27, Missouri 14
San Francisco	Boston College 35, Colorado State 21
Outback	Iowa 37, Florida 17
Gator	Maryland 41, West Virginia 7
Capital One	Georgia 34, Purdue 27
Cotton	Mississippi 31, Oklahoma State 28
Peach	Clemson 27, Tennessee 14
Humanitarian	Georgia Tech 52, Tulsa 10

Final 2003 polls

Associated Press	Coaches	TSN
1. USC	1. LSU	1. USC
2. LSU	2. USC	2. LSU
3. Oklahoma	3. Oklahoma	3. Ohio State
4. Ohio State	4. Ohio State	4. Oklahoma
5. Miami (Fla.)	5. Miami (Fla.)	5. Miami (Fla.)
6. Michigan	6. Georgia	6. Michigan
7. Georgia	7. Michigan	7. Georgia
8. Iowa	8. Iowa	8. Iowa
9. Washington State	9. Washington State	9. Kansas State
10. Miami (Ohio)	10. Florida State	10. Washington State
11. Florida State	11. Texas	11. Miami (Ohio)
12. Texas	12. Miami (Ohio)	12. Mississippi
13. Mississippi	13. Kansas State	13. Maryland
14. Kansas State	14. Mississippi	14. Texas
15. Tennessee	15. Boise State	15. Florida State
16. Boise State	16. Tennessee	16. Boise State
17. Maryland	17. Minnesota	17. Utah
18. Purdue	18. Nebraska	18. Purdue
19. Nebraska	19. Purdue	19. Clemson
20. Minnesota	20. Maryland	20. Tennessee
21. Utah	21. Utah	21. Nebraska
22. Clemson	22. Clemson	22. Oklahoma State
23. Bowling Green	23. Bowling Green	23. Minnesota
24. Florida	24. TCU	24. Bowling Green
25. TCU	25. Florida	25. Arkansas

BCS standings

(Points entering bowl play)

1.	Oklahoma	12-1	5.11
2.	LSU	12-1	5.99
3.	USC	11-1	6.15
4.	Michigan	10-2	10.63
5.	Ohio State	10-2	14.28
6.	Texas	10-2	14.53
7.	Florida State	10-2	17.93
8.	Tennessee	10-2	19.64
9.	Miami (Fla.)	10-2	19.79
10.	Kansas State	11-3	22.73
11.	Miami (Ohio)	12-1	24.22
12.	Georgia	10-3	24.59
13.	Iowa	9-3	28.94
14.	Purdue	9-3	32.93
15.	Florida	8-4	36.80

2003 National standings

ACC	Conference					Overall				
School	W	L	PF	PA	Pct.	W	L	PF	PA	Pct.
Florida State	7	1	269	138	.875	10	3	419	217	.769
Maryland	6	2	220	159	.750	10	3	406	206	.769
Clemson	5	3	210	158	.625	9	4	365	250	.692
N.C. State	4	4	256	250	.500	8	5	489	385	.615
Virginia	4	4	216	181	.500	8	5	364	265	.615
Georgia Tech	4	4	151	178	.500	7	6	274	266	.538
Wake Forest	3	5	242	236	.375	5	7	335	347	.417
Duke	2	6	139	265	.250	4	8	211	343	.333
North Carolina	1	7	184	322	.125	2	10	317	459	.167

Big East	Conference					Overall				
School	W	L	PF	PA	Pct.	W	L	PF	PA	Pct.
x-Miami	6	1	193	113	.857	11	2	361	196	.846
West Virginia	6	1	248	158	.857	8	5	376	297	.615
Pittsburgh	5	2	206	183	.714	8	5	389	311	.615
x-Virginia Tech	4	3	216	152	.571	8	5	460	299	.615
Boston College	3	4	176	196	.429	8	5	370	331	.615
Syracuse	2	5	141	191	.286	6	6	320	301	.500
Rutgers	2	5	162	214	.286	5	7	329	354	.417
Temple	0	7	125	260	.000	1	11	235	393	.083

Big Ten	Conference					Overall				
School	W	L	PF	PA	Pct.	W	L	PF	PA	Pct.
Michigan	7	1	286	150	.875	10	3	460	219	.769
Ohio State	6	2	175	124	.750	11	2	322	229	.846
Purdue	6	2	198	138	.750	9	4	349	226	.692
Iowa	5	3	198	160	.625	10	3	373	210	.769
Minnesota	5	3	285	204	.625	10	3	503	285	.769
Michigan State	5	3	249	191	.625	8	5	363	293	.615
Wisconsin	4	4	226	180	.500	7	6	355	306	.538
Northwestern	4	4	148	202	.500	6	7	263	326	.462
Penn State	1	7	154	190	.125	3	9	233	255	.250
Indiana	1	7	104	279	.125	2	10	177	388	.167
Illinois	0	8	112	317	.000	1	11	203	398	.083

Big 12										
North Division	Conference					Overall				
School	W	L	PF	PA	Pct.	W	L	PF	PA	Pct.
Kansas State	6	2	290	121	.750	11	4	549	244	.733
Nebraska	5	3	188	154	.625	10	3	322	188	.769
Missouri	4	4	250	198	.500	8	5	399	287	.615
Kansas	3	5	209	247	.375	6	7	384	396	.462
Colorado	3	5	228	255	.375	5	7	319	398	.417
Iowa State	0	8	71	343	.000	2	10	173	437	.167
South Division	**Conference**					**Overall**				
School	W	L	PF	PA	Pct.	W	L	PF	PA	Pct.
Oklahoma	8	0	412	90	1.000	12	2	601	214	.857
Texas	7	1	308	182	.875	10	3	533	280	.769
Oklahoma State	5	3	241	259	.625	9	4	467	326	.692
Texas Tech	4	4	344	296	.500	8	5	552	442	.615
Texas A&M	2	6	205	356	.250	4	8	304	465	.333
Baylor	1	7	121	366	.125	3	9	191	455	.250

Conference USA	Conference					Overall				
School	W	L	PF	PA	Pct.	W	L	PF	PA	Pct.
Southern Miss	8	0	226	117	1.000	9	4	293	226	.692
TCU	7	1	269	202	.875	11	2	380	276	.846
Louisville	5	3	289	242	.625	9	4	450	361	.692
Memphis	5	3	217	138	.625	9	4	393	250	.692
South Florida	5	3	177	160	.625	7	4	276	224	.636
Houston	4	4	286	301	.500	7	6	448	468	.538
UAB	4	4	189	190	.500	5	7	245	287	.417
Tulane	3	5	244	274	.375	5	7	337	424	.417
Cincinnati	2	6	190	216	.250	5	7	303	319	.417
East Carolina	1	7	174	280	.125	1	11	217	428	.083
Army	0	8	127	268	.000	0	13	206	476	.000

MAC										
East Division	Conference					Overall				
School	W	L	PF	PA	Pct.	W	L	PF	PA	Pct.
Miami	8	0	374	124	1.000	13	1	602	272	.929
Marshall	6	2	230	170	.750	8	4	350	278	.667
Akron	5	3	257	246	.625	7	5	435	353	.583
Kent State	4	4	261	274	.500	5	7	321	396	.417
UCF	2	6	131	221	.250	3	9	224	373	.250
Ohio	1	7	192	244	.125	2	10	263	372	.167
Buffalo	1	7	138	289	.125	1	11	177	445	.083

West Division	Conference					Overall				
School	W	L	PF	PA	Pct.	W	L	PF	PA	Pct.
Bowling Green	7	1	246	165	.875	11	3	470	304	.786
N. Illinois	6	2	281	196	.750	10	2	386	258	.833
Toledo	6	2	280	189	.750	8	4	389	285	.667
W. Michigan	4	4	211	220	.500	5	7	331	370	.417
Ball State	3	5	173	249	.375	4	8	261	386	.333
E. Michigan	2	6	145	240	.250	3	9	205	371	.250
C. Michigan	1	7	154	246	.125	3	9	277	428	.250

Mountain West	Conference					Overall				
School	W	L	PF	PA	Pct.	W	L	PF	PA	Pct.
Utah	6	1	213	144	.857	10	2	344	229	.833
New Mexico	5	2	206	138	.714	8	5	391	290	.615
Colorado State	4	3	216	162	.571	7	6	381	318	.538
Air Force	3	4	161	169	.429	7	5	322	242	.583
San Diego St.	3	4	111	145	.429	6	6	224	207	.500
BYU	3	4	114	161	.429	4	8	196	310	.333
UNLV	2	5	132	169	.286	6	6	256	272	.500
Wyoming	2	5	141	206	.286	4	8	286	360	.333

Pac-10	Conference					Overall				
School	W	L	PF	PA	Pct.	W	L	PF	PA	Pct.
USC	7	1	342	161	.875	12	1	534	239	.923
Washington St.	6	2	245	169	.750	10	3	394	257	.769
Oregon	5	3	209	216	.625	8	5	356	348	.615
California	5	3	267	170	.625	8	6	457	341	.571
Oregon State	4	4	270	224	.500	8	5	433	301	.615
Washington	4	4	203	233	.500	6	6	312	316	.500
UCLA	4	4	175	200	.500	6	7	248	305	.462
Arizona State	2	6	203	246	.250	5	7	298	328	.417
Stanford	2	6	130	243	.250	4	7	186	324	.364
Arizona	1	7	109	291	.125	2	10	181	429	.167

SEC										
East Division	Conference					Overall				
School	W	L	PF	PA	Pct.	W	L	PF	PA	Pct.
Georgia	6	2	215	102	.750	11	3	371	203	.786
Tennessee	6	2	260	170	.750	10	3	365	239	.769
Florida	6	2	178	152	.750	8	5	390	271	.615
South Carolina	2	6	164	227	.250	5	7	268	314	.417
Kentucky	1	7	198	244	.125	4	8	328	321	.333
Vanderbilt	1	7	126	261	.125	2	10	235	358	.167
West Division	**Conference**					**Overall**				
School	W	L	PF	PA	Pct.	W	L	PF	PA	Pct.
LSU	7	1	228	90	.875	13	1	475	154	.929
Mississippi	7	1	218	150	.875	10	3	442	285	.769
Auburn	5	3	190	148	.625	8	5	342	212	.615
Arkansas	4	4	247	223	.500	9	4	436	305	.692
Alabama	2	6	216	237	.250	4	9	331	333	.308
Miss. State	1	7	93	329	.125	2	10	225	471	.167

Sun Belt	Conference					Overall				
School	W	L	PF	PA	Pct.	W	L	PF	PA	Pct.
North Texas	7	0	237	142	1.000	9	4	358	285	.692
Mid. Tennessee	4	3	213	204	.571	4	8	332	375	.333
La.-Lafayette	4	3	225	228	.571	4	8	266	415	.333
Arkansas St.	3	4	131	273	.429	5	7	242	401	.417
Idaho	3	4	191	171	.429	3	9	248	314	.250
Utah State	3	4	193	136	.429	3	9	264	315	.250
New Mexico St.	2	5	154	172	.286	3	9	262	341	.250
La.-Monroe	1	6	180	249	.143	1	11	239	467	.083

WAC	Conference					Overall				
School	W	L	PF	PA	Pct.	W	L	PF	PA	Pct.
Boise State	8	0	375	143	1.000	13	1	602	239	.929
Fresno State	6	2	203	168	.750	9	5	322	317	.643
Tulsa	6	2	272	193	.750	8	5	400	361	.615
Hawaii	5	3	242	211	.625	9	5	486	427	.643
Rice	5	3	292	217	.625	5	7	343	378	.417
Nevada	4	4	195	251	.500	6	6	282	338	.500
Louisiana Tech	3	5	237	275	.375	5	7	310	394	.417
San Jose St.	2	6	217	290	.250	3	8	259	386	.273
UTEP	1	7	195	332	.125	2	11	288	498	.154
SMU	0	8	98	246	.000	0	12	134	386	.000

Independents	Overall				
School	W	L	PF	PA	Pct.
Connecticut	9	3	408	300	.750
Navy	8	5	396	283	.615
Troy State	6	6	185	272	.500
Notre Dame	5	7	243	315	.417

x-Joins ACC in 2004

2003 Individual statistics (returning players in bold)

RUSHING

Rk.	Player, school	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
1.	**P.J. Daniels, Georgia Tech**	**283**	**1,447**	**5.1**	**61**	**10**
2.	**Chris Barclay, Wake Forest**	**235**	**1,192**	**5.1**	**74(TD)**	**12**
3.	Chris Douglas, Duke	236	1,138	4.8	50	6
4.	**Wali Lundy, Virginia**	**227**	**929**	**4.1**	**25**	**10**
5.	**Josh Allen, Maryland**	**186**	**922**	**5.0**	**80(TD)**	**8**
6.	Bruce Perry, Maryland	147	713	4.9	80(TD)	6
7.	**Ronnie McGill, North Carolina**	**128**	**654**	**5.1**	**66**	**7**
8.	**Alvin Pearman, Virginia**	**134**	**643**	**4.8**	**51**	**4**
9.	**Duane Coleman, Clemson**	**133**	**622**	**4.7**	**50**	**2**
10.	Greg Jones, Florida State	144	618	4.3	53	7
11.	**T.A. McLendon, N.C. State**	**130**	**608**	**4.7**	**67**	**9**
12.	Chad Jasmin, Clemson	112	523	4.7	31	9
13.	**Cory Randolph, Wake Forest**	**94**	**404**	**4.3**	**41**	**5**
14.	**Darian Durant, North Carolina**	**91**	**396**	**4.4**	**63(TD)**	**6**
15.	**Leon Washington, Florida State**	**74**	**387**	**5.2**	**27**	**1**
16.	**Reggie Ball, Georgia Tech**	**139**	**384**	**2.8**	**45**	**3**
17.	**Jacque Lewis, North Carolina**	**61**	**374**	**6.1**	**56**	**1**
18.	**Cornelius Birgs, Wake Forest**	**103**	**344**	**3.3**	**25(TD)**	**5**
19.	**Lorenzo Booker, Florida State**	**62**	**334**	**5.4**	**71(TD)**	**3**
20.	**Sammy Maldonado, Maryland**	**51**	**305**	**6.0**	**31**	**3**

PASSING

Rk.	Player, school	Comp.	Att.	Yds.	Cmp.%	Yds./att.	TD	Int.	Rating
1.	Philip Rivers, N.C. State	348	483	4,491	72.0	9.30	34	7	170.5
2.	**Charlie Whitehurst, Clemson**	**288**	**465**	**3,561**	**61.9**	**7.66**	**21**	**13**	**135.6**
3.	**Chris Rix, Florida State**	**216**	**382**	**3,107**	**56.5**	**8.13**	**23**	**13**	**137.9**
4.	Matt Schaub, Virginia	281	403	2,952	69.7	7.33	18	10	141.0
5.	Scott McBrien, Maryland	173	314	2,672	55.1	8.51	19	6	142.7
6.	**Darian Durant, North Carolina**	**234**	**389**	**2,551**	**60.2**	**6.56**	**18**	**10**	**125.4**
7.	**Reggie Ball, Georgia Tech**	**181**	**350**	**1,996**	**51.7**	**5.70**	**10**	**11**	**102.8**
8.	**Cory Randolph, Wake Forest**	**144**	**246**	**1,773**	**58.5**	**7.21**	**8**	**10**	**121.7**
9.	**Mike Schneider, Duke**	**97**	**208**	**1,220**	**46.6**	**5.87**	**4**	**6**	**96.5**
10.	Adam Smith, Duke	49	94	488	52.1	5.19	2	0	102.8
11.	**Chris Dapolito, Duke**	**30**	**54**	**343**	**55.6**	**6.35**	**2**	**2**	**113.7**
12.	Fabian Walker, Florida State	30	50	342	60.0	6.84	3	0	137.3
13.	**Marques Hagans, Virginia**	**17**	**26**	**218**	**65.4**	**8.38**	**3**	**0**	**173.9**
14.	C.J. Stephens, North Carolina	11	18	186	61.1	10.33	1	0	166.2
15.	A.J. Suggs, Georgia Tech	15	24	180	62.5	7.50	2	2	136.3
16.	**Matt Baker, North Carolina**	**12**	**19**	**166**	**63.2**	**8.74**	**1**	**1**	**143.4**
17.	Orlando Evans, Maryland	14	21	161	66.7	7.67	1	0	146.8
18.	**Joel Statham, Maryland**	**12**	**25**	**156**	**48.0**	**6.24**	**0**	**1**	**92.4**
19.	**Anthony Martinez, Virginia**	**17**	**36**	**136**	**47.2**	**3.78**	**1**	**2**	**77.0**
20.	**Chansi Stuckey, Clemson**	**11**	**21**	**97**	**52.4**	**4.62**	**2**	**0**	**122.6**

RECEIVING

Rk.	Player, school	Rec.	Yds.	Ypr.	Long	TD
1.	Jerricho Cotchery, N.C. State	86	1,369	15.9	80(TD)	10
2.	Jonathan Smith, Georgia Tech	78	1,138	14.6	65(TD)	5
3.	Derrick Hamilton, Clemson	62	1,026	16.5	70(TD)	10
4.	**Craphonso Thorpe, Florida State**	**51**	**994**	**19.5**	**79(TD)**	**11**
5.	Kevin Youngblood, Clemson	70	897	12.8	51	2
6.	**Heath Miller, Virginia**	**70**	**835**	**11.9**	**52(TD)**	**6**
7.	**Tramain Hall, N.C. State**	**69**	**799**	**11.6**	**57(TD)**	**7**
8.	**Jason Anderson, Wake Forest**	**44**	**751**	**17.1**	**79(TD)**	**6**
9.	**Jarwarski Pollock, North Carolina**	**71**	**745**	**10.5**	**53**	**1**
10.	P.K. Sam, Florida State	50	735	14.7	67	5
11.	**Airese Currie, Clemson**	**43**	**560**	**13.0**	**72(TD)**	**4**
12.	Latrez Harrison, Maryland	39	558	14.3	49	6
13.	Brian Clark, N.C. State	33	548	16.6	42	2
14.	**Alvin Pearman, Virginia**	**63**	**518**	**8.2**	**49(TD)**	**4**
15.	**Richard Washington, N.C. State**	**44**	**500**	**11.4**	**45(TD)**	**6**
16.	Ryan Sawyer, Virginia	39	481	12.3	63	2
17.	**Steve Suter, Maryland**	**29**	**471**	**16.2**	**45**	**1**
18.	**T.J. Williams, N.C. State**	**28**	**444**	**15.9**	**75(TD)**	**3**
19.	**Nate Curry, Georgia Tech**	**37**	**426**	**11.5**	**54**	**3**
20.	**Ottowa Anderson, Virginia**	**33**	**407**	**12.3**	**36**	**2**

2003 Team statistics

RUSHING OFFENSE

Team	G	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Yds./G
Team	G	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Yds./G
Wake Forest	12	569	2,439	4.3	31	203.2
Maryland	12	504	2,346	4.7	23	195.5
Duke	12	546	2,065	3.8	16	172.1
North Carolina	12	387	1,805	4.7	17	150.4
Georgia Tech	12	455	1,715	3.8	9	142.9
Clemson	12	431	1,626	3.8	16	135.5
Florida State	12	438	1,622	3.7	19	135.2
Virginia	12	403	1,499	3.7	16	124.9
N.C. State	12	370	1,139	3.1	17	94.9

RUSHING DEFENSE

Team	G	Rushes	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Yds./G
Florida State	12	424	1,334	3.1	6	111.2
Georgia Tech	12	419	1,363	3.3	14	113.6
Maryland	12	452	1,527	3.4	14	127.2
N.C. State	12	430	1,560	3.6	16	130.0
Clemson	12	465	1,676	3.6	14	139.7
Duke	12	429	1,898	4.4	24	158.2
Virginia	12	460	1,954	4.2	15	162.8
Wake Forest	12	466	2,092	4.5	19	174.3
North Carolina	12	556	2,724	4.9	28	227.0

TOTAL OFFENSE

Team	Rush	Pass	Plays	Yds.	Avg./P	TD	Yds./G
N.C. State	1,139	4,099	820	5,238	6.4	47	436.5
Clemson	1,626	3,441	881	5,067	5.8	39	422.2
Florida State	1,622	3,409	857	5,031	5.9	44	419.2
Maryland	2,346	2,614	832	4,960	6.0	40	413.3
North Carolina	1,805	2,927	816	4,732	5.8	38	394.3
Virginia	1,499	3,080	838	4,579	5.5	38	381.6
Wake Forest	2,439	1,818	818	4,257	5.2	39	354.8
Duke	2,065	2,051	905	4,116	4.5	24	343.0
Georgia Tech	1,715	2,193	821	3,908	4.8	22	325.7

TOTAL DEFENSE

Team	Rush	Pass	Plays	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Yds./G
Maryland	1,527	2,241	801	3,768	4.7	24	314.0
Florida State	1,334	2,611	844	3,945	4.7	18	328.8
Clemson	1,676	2,274	818	3,950	4.8	27	329.2
Georgia Tech	1,363	2,682	817	4,045	5.0	28	337.1
Duke	1,898	2,603	780	4,501	5.8	39	375.1
Virginia	1,954	2,653	849	4,607	5.4	27	383.9
N.C. State	1,560	3,50	904	5,010	5.5	42	417.5
Wake Forest	2,092	3,358	931	5,450	5.9	41	454.2
North Carolina	2,724	3,339	915	6,063	6.6	53	505.2

PENALTIES

Team	G	No.	Yds.	Avg./G
Virginia	12	60	497	41.4
Wake Forest	12	61	524	43.7
Georgia Tech	12	63	531	44.2
Duke	12	72	535	44.6
North Carolina	12	68	584	48.7
Maryland	12	76	652	54.3
Clemson	12	77	690	57.5
Florida State	12	81	750	62.5
N.C. State	12	91	821	68.4

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OPPONENT PENALTIES

Team	G	No.	Yds.	Avg./G
Georgia Tech	12	87	765	63.8
Florida State	12	85	730	60.8
Duke	12	80	718	59.8
Wake Forest	12	84	709	59.1
North Carolina	12	74	705	58.8
N.C. State	12	78	697	58.1
Clemson	12	71	660	55.0
Virginia	12	69	586	48.8
Maryland	12	75	583	48.6

THIRD DOWN CONVERSIONS

Team	G	Conv.	Att.	Pct.
N.C. State	12	70	153	45.8
Maryland	12	71	164	43.3
Wake Forest	12	73	173	42.2
Virginia	12	72	176	40.9
Clemson	12	64	169	37.9
North Carolina	12	60	163	36.8
Georgia Tech	12	61	172	35.5
Duke	12	66	192	34.4
Florida State	12	55	163	33.7

OPPONENT THIRD DOWN CONVERSIONS

Team	G	Conv.	Att.	Pct.
Florida State	12	55	194	28.4
Virginia	12	61	176	34.7
Georgia Tech	12	61	174	35.1
Duke	12	57	157	36.3
Maryland	12	65	178	36.5
N.C. State	12	67	183	36.6
Clemson	12	71	175	40.6
North Carolina	12	76	166	45.8
Wake Forest	12	90	180	50.0

SACKS

Team	G	Sacks	Yards
Florida State	12	34	215
Maryland	12	33	257
Georgia Tech	12	26	161
N.C. State	12	26	176
Clemson	12	25	168
Virginia	12	22	123
Duke	12	19	110
North Carolina	12	16	101
Wake Forest	12	11	107

KICKOFF RETURNS

Team	G	Ret.	Yds.	TD	Avg.
Clemson	12	29	803	1	27.7
North Carolina	12	47	1,248	2	26.6
Florida State	12	36	846	0	23.5
Maryland	12	23	530	0	23.0
Duke	12	41	943	0	23.0
Virginia	12	28	639	0	22.8
Georgia Tech	12	46	924	0	20.1
Wake Forest	12	50	978	0	19.6
N.C. State	12	39	656	0	16.8

PUNT RETURNS

Team	G	Ret.	Yds.	TD	Avg.
Georgia Tech	12	29	360	3	12.4
Florida State	12	40	450	2	11.2
N.C. State	12	20	222	4	11.1
North Carolina	12	20	210	0	10.5
Maryland	12	46	443	1	9.6
Virginia	12	32	299	0	9.3
Wake Forest	12	22	151	1	6.9
Clemson	12	34	222	1	6.5
Duke	12	33	178	0	5.4

SCORING OFFENSE

Team	TD	XP	2XP	DXP	FG	Saf.	Pts.	Avg.
N.C. State	57	53	1	0	12	0	433	36.1
Florida State	50	48	0	0	19	0	405	33.8
Maryland	43	37	2	0	22	0	365	30.4
Virginia	40	39	1	0	20	0	341	28.4
Clemson	42	36	0	0	16	1	338	28.2
Wake Forest	45	41	0	0	8	0	335	27.9
North Carolina	40	35	2	1	12	0	317	26.4
Georgia Tech	25	24	0	0	16	0	222	18.5
Duke	25	20	1	0	13	0	211	17.6

SCORING DEFENSE

Team	TD	XP	2XP	DXP	FG	Saf.	Pts.	Avg.
Maryland	26	25	0	0	6	0	199	16.6
Florida State	22	19	1	0	16	0	201	16.8
Clemson	29	29	0	0	11	0	236	19.7
Virginia	30	27	0	0	14	0	249	20.8
Georgia Tech	29	27	1	0	17	1	256	21.3
Duke	43	41	1	0	14	0	343	28.6
Wake Forest	42	35	2	1	18	0	347	28.9
N.C. State	43	34	2	0	21	0	359	29.9
North Carolina	57	48	3	0	21	0	459	38.2

PASS OFFENSE

Team	Att.	Cmp.	Int.	Pct.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Yds./G
N.C. State	450	319	7	70.9	4,099	9.1	30	341.6
Clemson	450	278	12	61.8	3,441	7.6	23	286.8
Florida State	419	243	12	58.0	3,409	8.1	25	284.1
Virginia	435	296	11	68.0	3,080	7.1	22	256.7
North Carolina	429	258	11	60.1	2,927	6.8	21	243.9
Maryland	328	179	7	54.6	2,614	8.0	17	217.8
Georgia Tech	366	192	13	52.5	2,193	6.0	13	182.8
Duke	359	176	8	49.0	2,051	5.7	8	170.9
Wake Forest	249	146	10	58.6	1,818	7.3	8	151.5

PASS DEFENSE

Team	Att.	Cmp.	Int.	Pct.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Yds./G
Maryland	349	174	12	49.9	2,241	6.4	10	186.8
Clemson	353	199	14	56.4	2,274	6.4	13	189.5
Duke	351	207	11	59.0	2,603	7.4	15	216.9
Florida State	420	233	13	55.5	2,611	6.2	12	217.6
Virginia	389	217	12	55.8	2,653	6.8	12	221.1
Georgia Tech	398	240	13	60.3	2,682	6.7	14	223.5
North Carolina	359	226	2	63.0	3,339	9.3	25	278.2
Wake Forest	465	288	13	61.9	3,358	7.2	22	279.8
N.C. State	474	285	9	60.1	3,450	7.3	26	287.5

TURNOVER MARGIN

	Gained			Lost				
Team	Fum.	Int.	Tot.	Fum.	Int.	Tot.	Mar.	Per/G
Florida State	17	13	30	11	12	23	+7	0.58
Wake Forest	13	13	26	9	10	19	+7	0.58
Duke	10	11	21	9	8	17	+4	0.33
Virginia	9	12	21	6	11	17	+4	0.33
Clemson	8	14	22	6	12	18	+4	0.33
N.C. State	10	9	19	12	7	19	+0	0.00
Maryland	4	12	16	11	7	18	-2	-0.17
Georgia Tech	8	13	21	11	13	24	-3	-0.25
North Carolina	8	2	10	14	11	25	-15	-1.25

PUNTING

Team	G	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Ret.	Yds.	Avg.	Net/P
Florida State	12	54	2,244	41.6	24	121	2.2	39.3
Wake Forest	12	60	2,650	44.2	33	349	5.8	38.3
Maryland	12	51	2,174	42.6	24	221	4.3	38.3
N.C. State	12	52	2,212	42.5	32	272	5.2	37.3
North Carolina	12	54	2,192	40.6	36	234	4.3	36.3
Clemson	12	54	2,050	38.0	13	115	2.1	35.8
Duke	12	70	2,754	39.3	38	307	4.4	35.0
Virginia	12	63	2,170	34.4	15	146	2.3	32.1
Georgia Tech	12	63	2,327	36.9	34	311	4.9	32.0

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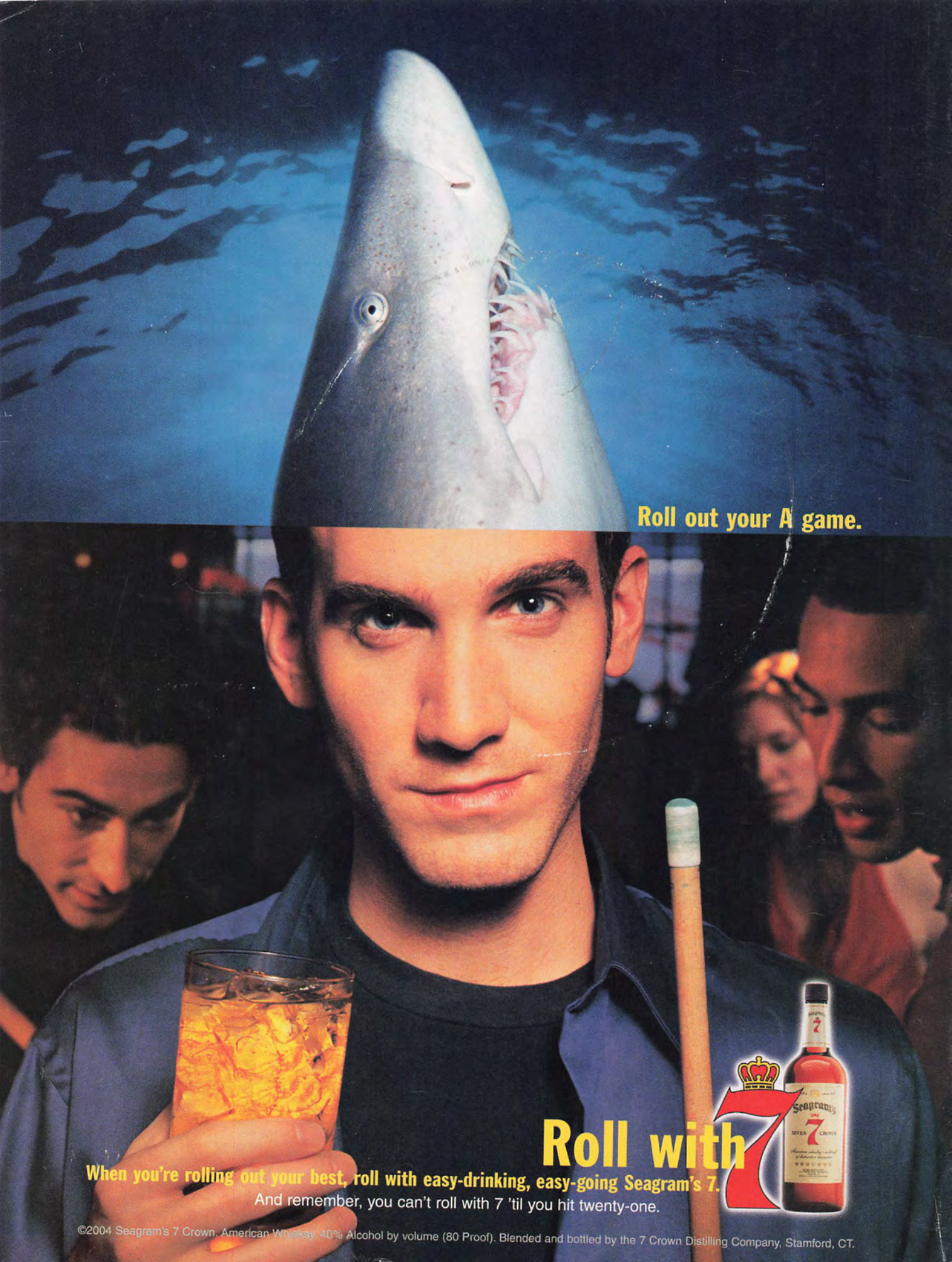
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